

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

FOR ITS PLANNED TANAPAG PROJECT

Amer. Sinopan in talks with Hilton

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A conditional use permit from the Zoning Board was awarded to American Sinopan LLC to build a garden resort-themed hotel in Tanapag in August 2018.

The company said it is in talks with hotel and business hotel/service apartment brands to come to Saipan and Hilton Hotels & Resort is one of them.

To date, final franchising talks between American Sinopan and Hilton Hotels are on the table.

This was disclosed when American Sinopan went to the Zoning board public hearing last Oct. 26 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall in Susupe to present minor amendments to their previous application and get approval from the board.

American Sinopan CEO Ken Lin said the changes are needed to com-

See SINOPAN on Page 4

Oceangoing vessel to arrive today

The Okeanos Marianas vessel that is traveling from Auckland, New Zealand is on track to arrive on Saipan today.

According to the latest information from Pete Perez, executive director of 500 Sails, the Okeanos Marianas vessel will be arriving at the Guma Sakman this morning between 7am and 7:30am.

By then the boat will have sailed a distance of 4,022 miles from New Zealand to Saipan in just 40 days.

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INSIDE



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The Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines host 10 Japanese agents.

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Catalonia's ousted leader called for peaceful opposition to Spain.

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LIFE & STYLE

Ashley Judd says society is at a "tipping point" on sexual harassment.

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Local

Navy asks court to junk environmental groups' suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense are asking the federal court to dismiss the lawsuit filed by four groups over the Navy's decision to relocate Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan.

In their response to the law-

suit, the Navy and Defense and their officials, through the Department of Justice, said the groups failed to "state a claim on which relief can be granted on some or all of their claims." Taylor N. Ferrell, trial attorney for the DOJ Environmental and Natural Resources Division, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to judge in favor of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Defense, and their officials.

District judge Ramona V.

The groups—the Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity—are suing the defendants for alleged violation of National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 and Administrative Procedure Act. Earthjustice filed the lawsuit on behalf of the groups.

Manglona recently granted

the Navy's and Defense's motion to dismiss the groups' second claim that the Navy and Defense violated NEPA by failing to consider alternative locations for the Marines, numbering 5,000.

Manglona dismissed the second claim with prejudice, which means the groups cannot re-file the claim.

Manglona gave the Navy, Defense, Navy Secretary

Spencer Sworn, and Defense Secretary James Mattis 14 days to respond to the groups' first claim.

In their answer last Friday, Ferrell said the groups failed to adequately identify one or more of its claims during the administrative process, thereby waiving or failing to exhaust the claim(s).

Ferrell said the groups also failed to establish standing to sue the defendants.

In Manglona's recent rulings, Earthjustice attorney David

Henkin said they are thankful that Manglona reaffirmed that the military is not above the law.

"Before deciding to move thousands of Marines to the Marianas, the Navy should have considered the devastation to Tinian and Pagan from the live-fire training those Marines will need to perform their mission.

"The people of Tinian and Pagan will now have their day in court to challenge this existential threat to their homelands," said Henkin in a statement.

All categories in 2017 Governor's Humanities Awards are filled

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council handed out awards to five individuals out of 12 nominees with the Governor's Humanities Award last Friday night at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan Charley's Cabaret. It was the first time in years that all five categories were filled.

According to Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell at the annual dinner last Friday, this year is significant because there were qualified nominees for each category.

"We have five categories and it's not every year that we have qualified individu-

als for each category so it just depends on the year. This year we were pretty much full for each category," he said.

The categories included Research and Publication, Outstanding Humanities Teacher, Preservation of CNMI History, Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices, and Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

For the Research and Publication category, the award was given to Dr. Miguel Vilar, who, unfortunately, was not present that evening.

Vilar is molecular anthropologist who heads the National Genographic Program.

The program aims to better understand the genetic diversity of human populations. Vilar's personal research includes documentation of early settlement patterns and genetic diversity in the Marianas. Vilar's research has helped the people of the Marianas to fully understand the origins and evolutions of the indigenous Chamorro.

For the Outstanding Humanities Teacher category, the award was given to Beth Demapan, who was not able to make it to the awarding dinner.

Demapan is the Technical Services librarian of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Through Demapan's job as assistant Motheread coordinator, she has been able to strengthen her daily activities of promoting essential library programming to underserved communities. Through her efforts to further enhance literary skills among low-income patrons, she has promoted lifelong learning in the humanities.

For the Preservation of CNMI History category, the award was given to former governor Juan N. Babauta.

Babauta has published a memoir that focused on his personal experiences after serving the Commonwealth community for over 30 years. Babauta

is the sixth governor of the CNMI and his memoir focused on the challenges confronting the Commonwealth at that time. Babauta's book will serve as a classroom resource on the recent history of the CNMI.

Babauta said he is working on another book that will be published soon. Babauta said he would keep the public informed in regards to the focus of his upcoming book.

Indigenous cultural advocate Luis John DLG Castro was presented with the award on the Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices.

For over 15 years, Castro, who is also the chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, has

been involved in performing and teaching the art of traditional Chamorro performances through the group, *Guma Simiyan Manaina-ta*. Castro's current goal is to promote the uniqueness of the Chamorro culture through visual and performing arts.

The Governor's Humanities Award under the category of Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities was awarded to the late William Ronald Barrineau.

Barrineau served as the first executive director of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council after retiring as an instructor. Barrineau's contributions to the humanities span more than four decades. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

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MVA: Hotel occupancy tax collection up in August

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hotel occupancy tax collection was higher than what the Marianas Visitors Authority projected for August, accord-

ing to MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

"We want to acknowledge the increase of \$324,105 in hotel occupancy tax for August. This means the Department of Finance is beefing up

their enforcement efforts," he said. "We are here to continue to support them from our end to make sure our collection efforts are aggressive and more fruitful because we do suspect that there still guest houses

interest would be awarded to Flores.

Flores' claimed damages are for the \$200,000 TCD principal, plus \$438.06 for the 2.5 percent interest on the principal for the 32-day time period, for a total of \$200,438.

Union Bank is not seeking any damages.

Manglona recently ruled that Flores may seek prejudgment interest on any damages that may be awarded in the jury trial.

It was not until 2008, when Donald's wife, Cecilia, found the original TCD, that Donald was able to confirm with Union Bank the existence of his TCD.

[and] little apartments that are probably under the radar."

The high occupancy level of hotels on island pushed the proliferation of bed-and-breakfast facilities throughout Saipan.

"We like the concept because it's very popular all over the world. The only thing that we have an issue with the B&Bs is the non-payment of the hotel occupancy tax by the customers. By law, they are required to charge customers 15 percent on top of the room rate," Concepcion said.

MVA board chair Gloria Cavanagh said the enforcement of the hotel occupancy tax will help MVA recover from its budget cut.

"We lost a total of \$1.6 million as a budget cut in the beginning of the year so the money we get from the hotel occupancy tax from hotels, B&Bs, and guest houses will hopefully help

MVA recover," she said.

The Legislature cut \$1.6 million from MVA's budget for fiscal year 2018, reallocating the money to the mayors of Saipan, Tinian and Rota and to the Public School System's acquisition of fire trucks, among others.

"We are concerned about it because that is a big chunk of budget that we can't spend on marketing or sports tourism or other events that we plan in the CNMI. We definitely have to cut programs," Concepcion said.

Cavanagh said the MVA welcomes private houses and apartments turned into B&Bs to accommodate people. But they have to pay the hotel occupancy tax.

The Zoning board has the same goal of identifying businesses that fall under the category of hotels.

At the recent public hearing, Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said there are only 63 registered B&B busi-

nesses with the board, yet there are a total of 264 places on Saipan registered on the Airbnb website.

"The reality is, majority of them have not registered [with Zoning] but our enforcement is still continuing inspections. One investigation made us discover eight out 10 of apartment owners had no knowledge that their apartments is on Airbnb and we are told that most likely it is the tenants that list them on Airbnb," Ogumoro said.

According to Concepcion, 80 percent of hotel occupancy tax collected goes to MVA.

"MVA's funding is from the hotel occupancy tax so if they don't pay the tax, we lose out. That's why our position is, we like the concept and we think there is a need for it because there are not a lot of hotel rooms but they should comply with the tax laws and it's only fair," he said.

Flores' son seeks \$200,438 in damages, interest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The son of the late former Saipan mayor Donald G. Flores is claiming damages and interest totaling \$200,438 from MUFG Union Bank over his father's alleged \$200,000 time certificate of deposit.

He is also seeking prejudgment interest.

Donald Flores had sued the bank in 2011 over the TCD. When he died in June 2014, his wife, Cecilia, became the administrator of his estate. Cecilia, however, died in September 2015. Their son, Deron Gerard Flores, continued

the lawsuit as administrator of the Flores estate.

The new lawsuit seeks to collect from MUFG Union Bank the principal and interest on a \$200,000, 32-day TCD 24 years after Donald took it out at Union Bank in 1993.

The jury trial in the lawsuit will commence next Monday, Nov. 6, in federal court. The jury will be composed of eight members.

In a final pretrial order last Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that, if Flores wins the case, it will be the court that will determine if prejudgment interest on any damages that may be awarded in the jury trial.

It was not until 2008, when Donald's wife, Cecilia, found the original TCD, that Donald was able to confirm with Union Bank the existence of his TCD.

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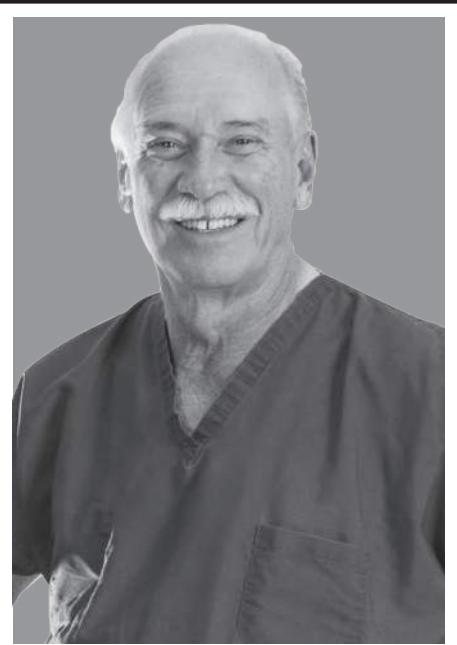
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Senate committee seeks CUC documents; updated DPW status

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications sent out letters to both heads of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Department of Public Works for documents surrounding financials and updates on the agencies for the committee's review.

According to documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) has requested CUC for finan-

cials and DPW for updated status reports on solid waste and road and highway projects, both local and federal.

Both letters were dated Oct. 20, 2017, and were addressed to CUC executive director Gary Camacho and DPW Secretary James Ada.

The committee asked CUC for a breakdown of accounts receivables for residential customers, commercial businesses, and the government,

which is to be detailed per department or agency in monthly payments and balances owed.

PUTC also wishes to obtain details on customer deposits, and reports for all net-metering and prepaid metering clients for residential customers and commercial businesses.

The PUTC wants included the amount to be paid to CUC due to the use of DPW streetlights in the committee's

request for the CNMI government and utility payments agreements, as well as any proposed amendments.

Similarly, the committee also asked DPW to provide information on their contract agreement with CUC regarding streetlights, along with updates on solid waste for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; updates on the Marpi landfill; updates on the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, along with a distinction of common recyclables received; and updates on the trash convenience centers for Kagman, and Koblerville.

PUTC expects an updated status of major road projects under DPW for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, including funding sources and the expected date of completion.

These include updates on

Trunk or Treat event at Kagman

The Kagman Community Church will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot and a free photo booth inside on Tuesday, Oct. 31, starting at 6pm. Kagman

the Isa Drive road project on Saipan; Windward Drive; and the hotel street or Garapan revitalization traffic project.

Unlike CUC, DPW is requested to meet with the committee to conduct a presentation on the topics.

INSURER

From Page 1

and not one had an affirmative response.

The CHC inquiry was in compliance with Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's order requiring the CNMI government to seek information about the availability of liability insurance coverage for its healthcare professional staff.

In the same order dated Aug. 28, 2017, Camacho temporarily stayed the medical malpractice lawsuit filed by Remedio Elameto and her husband, Pedro Pua against the CNMI government and former CHC doctors Gary Ramsey and Rajee Iver.

In the government's report to the Superior Court last Friday, Timmons said he notified CHC last Aug. 28 about Camacho's order.

That same day, Aug. 28, CHC personnel contacted by telephone seven insurance companies doing business on Saipan, Timmons said.

He said six companies responded negatively and one asked that the inquiry be made in writing.

The following day, Aug. 29, Timmons met with CHC personnel to discuss steps to be taken to satisfy Camacho's order.

He said that, last Sept. 11, CHC sent written inquiries to all insurers licensed to sell insurance products in the CNMI seeking information as to their willingness to provide coverage for CHC healthcare professionals, and to provide information as to what data they would need to see in a request for proposals.

Timmons disclosed that out of 22 firms contacted in writing, two responded that they do not offer this type of insurance and one responded with the information they would need to see to determine whether they would be willing to provide coverage in the Commonwealth.

Timmons said the remaining 19 companies did not respond.

He said CHC staff also called each and every insurer listed in the CNMI telephone book to inquire as to the availability of coverage, but none gave an affirmative response.

He said CHC has not contacted insurers that are not licensed or authorized by the CNMI insurance commissioner. In this case, that would be Commerce Secretary Mark Rabaullinan.

Attorney Claire Kelleher-Smith, who is counsel for Elameto and Pua, earlier said that a problem that has been plaguing the CNMI for years is the lack of medical malpractice

insurance covering doctors practicing at CHC.

The other problem, Kelleher-Smith said, is the government's improper reliance on the Government Liability Act, rather than obtaining medical malpractice insurance.

"This problem has been preventing victims of medical malpractice at CHC from obtaining meaningful recovery. That is the real problem," said Kelleher-Smith.

She discussed the lack of medical malpractice insurance issue in Elameto's and Pua's notice of non-opposition to the conditional stay of the implementation of the portion of Camacho's order finding provisions of the Government Liability Act unconstitutional, during pendency of the government's appeal.

In his order in connection with the couple's lawsuit last Aug. 11, Camacho invalidated the substitution provisions of the Government Liability Act.

Camacho ruled that the Government Liability Act's damages cap, substitution provision, prohibition on punitive damages, and restriction on the availability of jury trials fail constitutional examination.

The ruling has prompted the Office of the Attorney General and Ramsey to file a joint request for the court's

immediate issuance of an order staying this case pending their appeal of Camacho's decision with the CNMI Supreme Court.

In support of the joint request, CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña had notified the OAG that the hospital would cease performing non-emergent surgical procedures starting Aug. 16, 2017 until the court overturns its ruling.

Muña said that medical malpractice insurance is not available in the Commonwealth apparently because the size of the medical community in the CNMI is too small to create a sufficient risk pool.

CHC is the only hospital and surgical facility on Saipan.

Elameto and Pua are suing the CNMI government and Iyer and Ramsey for medical malpractice, bad faith, and emotional distress and loss of consortium.

Elameto claimed that a surgical team at CHC left a 15-centimeter long surgical clamp in her abdomen during a surgery to address her irregular periods and ovarian cysts at CHC on Saipan in August 2000.

Elameto disclosed that it was in June 2014 or almost 14 years later when the surgical clamp was discovered and removed at Guam Memorial Hospital.

didn't know about this...I feel very grateful," said Amirez.

He said he gladly takes up any volunteer jobs assigned to him. "I was recently deployed to Texas helping with victims of Hurricane Harvey. It was quite an experience," he added.

Amirez was deployed to a shelter in Houston and he was given the opportunity not only to help those in need but he also met a few individuals he developed friendships with. "I was assigned to a shelter. I was able to make new friends and help people," he said.

Amirez said that he is honored to receive the award but he feels that there are

more volunteers who deserve the recognition.

"To me, all the volunteers should be recognized, it's not only me. I am honoured and grateful for receiving this award but I know all the other volunteers deserve it too," said Amirez.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical service also received recognition from the local chapter of the Red Cross.

The award is presented to one of the chapter's government partners for their valued contribution, partnership, and support to the ARC-NMI Chapter.

DFEMS Commissioner Clyde Norita, on behalf of

DFEMS, received the award.

According to Norita, this is the first time the department has received an award from the chapter.

Norita said the services the department provides to the community would not be attainable if not for its partnerships.

"We are very responsive to the community's needs but it's really about working together, it's not just the fire department. We team up with Red Cross, together with [the Department of Public Safety] and the hospital to make things happen. It's about serving our community, that's all it is really," said Norita.

VESSEL

From Page 1

The Guma Sakman (canoe house) is located on the Civic Center Beach in Susupe across Marianas High School.

It was earlier reported that

the vessel would arrive last Saturday, but Emma Perez, managing director of Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport Ltd., had said that the Okeanos Marianas would be arriving in canoe standard time so it requires flexibility. (*Saipan Tribune*)

SINOPAN

From Page 1

ply with Hilton Hotels' design requirements.

"We are adding two lobbies because the original plan had separate lobbies for four different buildings. It is very important for the Hilton group to have their main lobby but we will retain the small side lobbies. The height of the buildings and parking space also remain the same," he said.

Due to the differing size of the rooms, American Sinopan divided them into two—one is Hilton Double Tree and the other is Hilton Garden Inn.

"We made changes to comply with Hilton's own design of hotel and amenity requirements," Lin said.

According to Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro, the Zoning staff has already approved the amendments and they are now up to the board for rejection or approval.

The amendments include adding two lobby areas between the buildings, adding more landscaping design or improvements in the middle, and moving service apartment building number 11 and the generator facility to another location.

Ogumoro added that the service apartments increased from 175 to 188 units, the staff housing was reduced from 200 units to 170 units, but the member of hotel rooms remain at 1,484 rooms.

American Sinopan projects a budget of \$164 million for the entire project. The board questioned the budget total, whether or not the modifications will amount to an increase in the budget that was previously presented to the board.

Lin said that even with the

modifications, the total projected budget did not increase.

"The height of the buildings remain the same and, with our plans to use pre-cast concrete in place, the total construction cost did not increase as much," he said.

Lin, however, said the overall budget may change once the development enters into the construction documentation stage as it will be subject to changes to due labor and material costs coming in.

According to Lin, Saipan needs an international brand. Having an international hotel brand is a good statement for the CNMI as it boosts tourism.

"Right now we are on the stage of going into the final details of the floor plan with the Hilton group in Japan. Hilton Japan oversees Hilton hotels in Japan and the Micronesia. They've been back and forth on island. We are also in the final stage of planning with the technical team based in Singapore. When all is in place, they can come here and do the official signing," he said.

"Our garden idea will remain and the modifications as required by Hilton are just minor details. It is our intention to keep the garden theme of the resort using trees and plants grown in the area," Lin added.

The Zoning board approved the amendments.

The construction is expected to start in the latter part of the first quarter next year and expected to be finished by 2020.

Lin said in an interview last August that they are projecting that operations will generate \$14 million worth of hotel tax and \$6 million worth of food and beverage tax, which amounts to \$20 million that will go to the CNMI yearly.

AMIREZ

From Page 1

local chapter of the Red Cross after Typhoon Soudelor devastated the island in 2015. As of today, Amirez has served a total of 3,125 hours as a volunteer.

Amirez was also one of the four from the Northern Marianas who helped out in Houston, Texas after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

According to a surprised Amirez, he just got back on island and no one had informed him that he had been chosen to receive the Volunteer of the Year award.

"I was so nervous because I

didn't know about this...I feel very grateful," said Amirez.

He said he gladly takes up any volunteer jobs assigned to him. "I was recently deployed to Texas helping with victims of Hurricane Harvey. It was quite an experience," he added.

Amirez was deployed to a shelter in Houston and he was given the opportunity not only to help those in need but he also met a few individuals he developed friendships with. "I was assigned to a shelter. I was able to make new friends and help people," he said.

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Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Janice E. Castro
 Acting Director, DCRM

Eli D. Cabrera
 Acting Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Isa Villa Multifamily Housing Development Complex

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction of the Isa Villas project. The Isa Villas project is a multifamily development complex which consists of two 3-story concrete buildings with 27 housing units. The project includes communal recreational space, community center, drive ways, parking and green space. The project site is located on Capitol Hill, Saipan, on a privately leased property identified as Lot Number 150 E 30. Total area of the project is about 19,969 square meters.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, November 09, 2017, at 5PM**, at the Office of the Governor, main conference room.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Isa Villas Multi-Family Development project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
 Acting Director
 Division of Coastal Resources Management



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NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The CNMI Department of Labor ("DOL") announces that Employers must comply with the following Department Rules and Regulations ("Regulations"). Failure to comply with these Regulations may cause an employer to be charged with a Notice of Violation by the Department of Labor (DOL), which could result in fines and other sanctions after a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office. Failure to comply with these Regulations could also cause an employer to be denied a Certificate of Good Standing.

1. Post Job Vacancy Announcements on DOL's Website.

DOL Regulations require employers who are hiring or renewing CW-1 status workers on a full-time basis to post job vacancy announcements on the Department's website (www.marianaslabor.net). See DOL Regulations at the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code ("NMIAC") § 80-20.1-225(a). No waiver is available with respect to this job vacancy announcement requirement. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

2. File Quarterly Total Workforce Listings.

DOL Regulations require employers to submit information *on a quarterly basis* regarding "the number and classification of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter." [Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-505 et seq.] The Department requires employers to submit this information in a document called the "Total Workforce Listing."

Employers are required to file Total Workforce Listings on a quarterly basis, due on the last day of the month following the quarter:

1st Quarter (January–March)...due on April 30
 2nd Quarter (April – June).....due on July 31
 3rd Quarter (July – September)...due on October 31
 4th Quarter (Oct. – December)....due on January 31

ATTENTION: The Total Workforce Listing for the 3rd Quarter of 2017, is due on October 31, 2017.

3. File Annual Workforce Plan or Updated Existing Plan.

DOL Regulations require all employers who employ nonimmigrant aliens (e.g., CW-1 status employees) to file an updated Workforce Plan every 12 months. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510.

The Workforce Plan form is available on the DOL website (www.marianaslabor.net/forms).

The objective of the Workforce Plan is to increase the percentage of U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents and/or CNMI permanent residents in the workforce of the employer. The plan shall include a timetable for accomplishing the replacement of nonimmigrant aliens with qualified citizens, U.S. permanent residents and/or CNMI permanent residents. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(a-b).

4. Workforce Participation – Minimum Percentage.

DOL Regulations and statutes [3 CMC § 4525(a)] require all employers to maintain a full-time workforce in which a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the full-time employees are U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents and/or U.S. permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525(a) and Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3). Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% may result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.

Fanter sues DPL over quarry permit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

C 02—As Matuus, Saipan." The lot contains 50,000 square meters.

Fanter, which already has a quarry in Kannat Tabla, submitted a proposal in response on Sept. 16, 2016.

Fanter was then informed on Nov. 9, 2016, that its proposal had not been selected.

Instead, DPL initially selected the proposal submitted by Win Win Way Construction Co. and issued a notice of intent to award to Win Win Way on Nov. 9, 2016, Torres said.

Torres said DPL then entered into negotiations with Win Win Way for a contract for the quarry permit.

However, Torres said, the parties were unable to agree on terms and that Win Win

Way withdrew from consideration for the permit on May 23, 2017.

The lawyer said unable to negotiate a contract for the permit with Win Win Way, DPL then turned to Blue Oasis LLC, the second highest bidder.

He said DPL and Blue Oasis were also unable to agree to a contract.

Torres said that DPL chose to disregard Fanter's proposal, with DPL issuing another RFP for the same land on or before Sept. 21, 2017.

Last Oct. 1, Fanter protested the apparent cancellation of the previous RFP, to which DPL, through its counsel, reaffirmed its non-award to the company. Torres said DPL's response did not cite a reason.



2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-18-IFB-001

INREPAIR OF CHAINLINK FENCE AND ERODED PORTION LIBWOTMERHA PLACE

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Repair of Chainlink Fence and Eroded Portion Libwotmerha Place, Tanapag**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 30, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 15, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 20, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan** or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 p.m. local time to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan** or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addendum, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-18-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time December 04, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, December 04, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 04, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **December 11, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, December 12, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on December 04, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Sixty (160) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
 Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAM
 Director of Procurement & Supply

CONGRATULATIONS!



Friday the 13th Jackpot Winner

Friday the 13th may bring bad luck to some, but not to Tanapag resident Jeannie Pangelinan.

The grandmother of nine hit the jackpot at the Northern Marianas Sports Association Lottery on Oct. 13, winning a whopping \$10,000.

"I am somehow superstitious, but I



guess after winning the jackpot on Friday the 13th, I may change my mind a bit," a smiling Pangelinan said after claiming the grand prize check at the NMSA Lottery office in Susupe last Tuesday.

Pangelinan bought the winning ticket (Break the Bank) at Yong Hao's store in

Koblerville, as she drove from north to south to visit her grandkids. Yong Hao received \$1,000 as bonus prize for selling the winning ticket.

"I was scheduled to visit my grandkids so I stopped by the store to get some snacks for them. I saw the scratch card

and was a bit curious, so I bought \$20 worth of tickets. It was my first time to try it," she said.

Pangelinan got 10 tickets and put them in her purse, nearly forgetting she had them as she made a stop to another store to buy drinks—also for her grandchildren. She went back to her car and by then she remembered the lottery tickets, scratching the first two and winning nothing. Third time was the charm for Pangelinan and that third ticket was the only one that gave her the win—a big one.

The sexagenarian considered her winning as an early Christmas gift and promised to give all her grandkids and children presents.

"Of course, I will use some of my money to buy them presents. Everybody will get theirs on Christmas Day. I will save the rest," Pangelinan

Pangelinan added she will still buy lottery tickets, as Lady Luck may smile at her again. She also wants to support NMSA's cause.

Ticket sales from NMSA are used to help send CNMI athletes to off-island competitions and for the group's other programs. This December, Team Marianas will be competing in athletics, weightlifting, and men's 3x3 basketball contests in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Meanwhile, NMSA also handed out \$500 to Delfin Emocling this month. He won the \$500 from the scratch card he bought at Ming Ming Store in Susupe.





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

CASE WORKER I

Announcement # JVA18-01

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which is responsible for drug court assessments, case management with drug court participants and provides ongoing support to the Drug Court operation/functions. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct intake, assessment, establish case plan for referred participants;
- Conducts program/phase orientation and inform participants of legal requirements and implications concerning treatment;
- Tracks drug tests, group attendance, individual counseling attendance, outside groups (Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Discovery Course) and other services;
- Provides case management;
- Coordinates/conducts individual, family and group therapeutic/educational/substance abuse treatment sessions/and crisis intervention;
- Conducts discharge planning and provides referrals for continuing treatment;
- Provides follow-up contact as needed;
- Communicates with Compliance Specialist and other Drug Court staff to secure resources for participants;
- Maintains files, records legal and case documentation in accordance with established regulatory policies and procedure;
- Attends staff meetings, in-service training, workshops, and interagency conferences to coordinate services;
- Attends Drug Court sessions as needed; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, or closely related field. Have three (3) years experience as a counselor in substance abuse treatment programs. Any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the minimum knowledge, abilities and skills required for the position. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$35,000 - \$40,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
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T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PROVIDER

Announcement # JVA18-03

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which actively monitors drug court participants outside of the drug court setting including conducting home and job visits. All clients contact is documented and visits logged to help encourage positive participant behavior. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ensures random drug testing and community supervision practices are in accordance with Drug Court policies and procedures;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for drug court hearings;
- Coordinates criminal background checks for drug court participants;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Documents facts with respect to the drug court participants' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while on supervision;
- Reports investigative findings conducted by assigned Drug Court law enforcement officer(s) to drug court and prepares recommendations for the proper case disposition;
- Appears in drug court hearings with the ability to provide testimony on drug court cases;
- Provides periodic interviews of participants to determine effectiveness of Drug Court mandates, supervision, counseling, etc.
- Maintains ongoing relationship with participants throughout the duration of the program;
- Follows Court policy for monitoring payments ordered by the Drug Court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, drug court fees, restitution, fine, child supports, etc.;
- Plans office activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, neat, legible and up to date case records in the prescribed form;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conference, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Responsible for and conducts gender-specific, observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols;
- Continually assess and review supervision and drug testing protocols and terms and conditions of supervision regularly to ensure they are still working for the target populations; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) Have a bachelor's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in criminal justice or a related field, plus at least six months experience as a law enforcement officer; OR (2) four years experience as a law enforcement officer. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$28,000 - \$30,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Docomo offers iPhone 8, Plus

Docomo Pacific announced Friday that it will offer the new generation iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus.

Both devices became available in Docomo Pacific stores in Guam and on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota starting on Friday, Oct. 27.

For complete pricing details, please visit www.docomopacific.com.

Jonathan Kriegel, president and chief executive officer of Docomo Pacific, said, "We're excited to get the new generation iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus into the hands of our customers throughout the Marianas. We can't wait for Docomo Pacific customers to experience these devices on

the widest 4G LTE network." iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus are a new generation of iPhone featuring a new glass and aluminum design in three beautiful finishes—space gray, silver, and a new gold—made with the most durable glass ever in a smartphone, Retina HD displays, A11 Bionic chip and is designed for the ultimate augmented experience. The world's most popular camera gets even better and wireless charging brings a powerful new capability to iPhone. iPhone 8 Plus features dual 12-megapixel cameras and introduces Portrait mode with Portrait Lighting, bringing dramatic studio lighting

effects to iPhone, allowing customers to capture stunning portraits with a shallow depth of field effect in five different lighting styles. Thomas Higa, Docomo Pacific's chief commercial officer, said, "We're thrilled to launch the iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus at Docomo Pacific stores. Along with all the new features, customers can enjoy and experience our newly increased data plans called MyPlan M and MyPlan L on the new generation iPhone."

For more details on pricing, data plans, and device replacement, visit www.docomopacific.com. For more details on iPhone visit www.apple.com. (PR)



HONORING VETERANS

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) speaks with Celestino Almeda, a Filipino veteran representing the Philippine Commonwealth Army. Almeda is one of the less than 7,000 surviving veterans residing in the U.S. today who were presented with Congressional Medals of Honor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DYS builds capacity through forensic interview training

The Division of Youth Services recently completed forensic interview certification to build the CNMI's capacity to address child abuse, neglect, and related youth protection services.

The five-day training was provided by the First Witness Child Advocacy Center from Duluth, Minnesota.

First Witness Child Advocacy adopts the approach that is child-centered, especially when dealing with victims of child sexual and physical abuse and allowing them to safely tell their story. FWCA provides child appropriate forensic interview techniques, crisis counseling to children and families, and age appropriate education on personal body safety for children.

"Our personnel went through multiple content areas with FWCA, including the dynamics in child abuse, process of disclosure, child development, questioning children, child-first forensic interview protocol, anatomical dolls, preparing kids for court, testifying in court, hearsay and working with multi-disciplinary teams," said DYS administrator Vivian Sablan.

The highlight of the five-

day training was the exercise that involved role-playing and interviews with a trained actor portraying a child with abuse in their history, said Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter.

"DYS is pivotal in addressing the needs of the family and our children. Efforts to detect and deal with these issues effectively and appropriately are important. This service will go a long way in meeting the diverse and often complex-ridden and multi-faceted problems and needs of our community. I am proud that we now have 12 DCCA Division of Youth Services staff who are fully certified forensic interviewers, with one on Tinian and two on Rota as well as

two staff of the CNMI Attorney General's Office and one from the Department of Public Safety.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog said that DYS is responsible for reducing and, when possible, eradicating child abuse and neglect.

"Building our capacity and skills to address these social issues brings together our vision of addressing generational and social ills. The success of our youth is reflective of the success of the approaches we apply and our continued priorities. Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and I extend my gratitude to the hardworking staff, counselors, and case workers who work closely with our youth in the Commonwealth, and concurrently address the related social problems plaguing families who need the most help," Hocog said. (PR)

DYS, as the lead agency that responds to child abuse and neglect and having the only pool of trained and certified forensic interviewers throughout the CNMI, works closely with the Department

Pacific veterans will get congressional hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) announced Friday that Pacific area veterans, whose needs are often neglected, will get a congressional hearing next year.

The hearing decision is the result of a request from Sablan, Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa), and Delegate Madeline Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) to Dr. Phil Roe (R-Tennessee), who chairs the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"Pacific insular area veterans—and in particular veterans in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Independent State of Samoa, and the Freely Associated States—face a number of barriers to timely, accessible VA care and benefits," Roe added. Sablan said he is most grateful to Roe for responding affirmatively to the request for a hearing.

"I would be pleased to work with you to schedule a hearing on Pacific insular

area veteran access to care in the second session of the 115th Congress," Roe wrote in response. "Ensuring that all our nation's veterans have access to the healthcare and other services they need to live healthy, full lives is my top priority as chairman."

fairs Committee in this Congress because it had become clear to me that veterans in the Marianas and throughout the Pacific, who are at the very end of a long supply chain, were simply not get-

ting the attention and services they have earned.

"From my first day on the committee, Dr. Roe has been interested in the story I brought of Pacific veterans struggling to get even the basics in health-

care and other benefits—and he promised to help.

"An oversight hearing next year would be a great opportunity for the Veterans' Affairs Committee to learn even more about the barriers facing veter-

ans living in the U.S. Pacific insular areas and to go to work on reducing those barriers.

Sablan obtained a special waiver from the Democratic Caucus to be on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Ordinarily, members are limited to two committees. Veterans' Affairs is Sablan's third. (PR)

CNMI to celebrate Veterans Week

The Office of the Governor, the CNMI Military Veterans Affairs Office, and the CNMI Veterans Day Committee are inviting the public to come celebrate and honor our brave patriots who served and are still serving with unwavering dedication and purpose, sacrifice their personal comforts to keep the world safe, and secure the freedom we enjoy today.

The Veterans Week proclamation will be held at the

Office of the Governor's conference room at the Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building on Monday, Nov. 6, 2017, at 9am.

The Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the American Memorial Park court of honor on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017, at 11am.

For more information, contact CNMI Military Veterans Affairs Office executive officer Oscar C. Torres at (670) 664-2652. (PR)

Funds illegally withdrawn from the RMI trust fund fully restored

WASHINGTON—Chairman Nik Pula of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands confirmed last week that funds compromised by cyber-attacks at State Street Financial Services Co. have been fully restored and diligence stepped up after the discovery of fraudulent withdrawals of more than \$600,000.

"Trust fund staff first detected irregularities in early July 2017 and alerted State Street, leading to the discovery of fraudulent activity in the trust fund," said Pula. "All trust fund members and staff have been collaborating closely with State Street in monitoring and resolving the situation with the Republic of the Marshall Islands attorney general, RMI auditor, and other officials from the Marshall Islands, Taiwan, and U.S. governments. Together we will continue to protect and maintain the integrity of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands."

In late June and the first half of July 2017, a series of eight fraudulent wire transfers occurred in the trust fund totaling \$685,595.08.

The irregular activity violated proper protocol, processes, and procedures established to

protect the trust fund.

All illegally withdrawn funds from the trust fund have been returned by State Street; no funds are missing.

State Street is in the process of reimbursing all funds fraudulently transferred out of a separate account, which is managed and administered solely by the RMI government.

In late July 2017, the trust fund initiated transfer of custody from State Street to Vanguard. The transfer was planned prior to the fraudulent activity and based on a previous RFP process. The trust fund will finalize closure of its account with State Street once the accounts are fully reconciled.

Trust fund staff continues to maintain rigorous monitoring and reporting activities on a daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly basis to protect the integrity of the account.

An investigation by the State Street Cyber-Security team is ongoing and the FBI has also been called upon to investigate.

Pula and trust fund members continue to be fully apprised of the situation and will continue to be diligent in protecting the trust fund.

The value of the fund as of Sept. 30, 2017, preliminary and unaudited for fiscal year 2017, was \$354,656,481. (PR)



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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

First Amendment protects the cross, too

Thank God. Thank Allah, Buddha or the Flying Spaghetti Monster deity of "Pastafarians" who poke fun at religion.

Just give thanks for the First Amendment, which could save us from a dangerous ruling last week by two activists on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A 2-1 ruling declared the 40-foot Peace Cross, a historic veterans' memorial, a crime scene. The two confused judges want the cross to come down. They said the 90-year-old memorial, at a Maryland intersection near Washington, D.C., sets a "dangerous precedent" by entangling the government in religion.

Somehow we have lived with this cross since the American Legion, and a few families funded it in 1925 to honor 45 community members who died in war. Yet, two lawyers on the bench feel compelled to save us all with an act of judicial vandalism. In an era of diminishing influence by Christians and their increasingly empty churches, the judges fear this memorial might establish Christianity as the law of the land.

Defenders of the Peace Cross plan to petition the U.S. Supreme Court. Please, take this case. Other memorials are under similar attacks, and a ruling is needed to settle these disputes.

The first order of business in our Bill of Rights prevents government from forcing us to embrace religion. In the same sentence, the law prevents government from interfering with our freedom to exercise and express beliefs.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Nowhere does this say we must scour religion from government property, which would prohibit the free exercise of religion among those who work in public space or reside in prisons or public housing. Nowhere does it say the law favors secular art on a public canvas, at the exclusion of faith-based art.

Fourth Circuit Chief Judge Roger Gregory dissented in the ruling, writing the First Amendment does not require government to "purge from the public sphere any reference to religion."

The men who wrote the First Amendment, chiefly Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, had no intention of a law that would cleanse public space of religious messages. Check with the Library of Congress.

"Within a year of his inauguration, Jefferson began attending church services in the House of Representatives," explains the Library of Congress exhibit Religion and the Founding of the American Republic. "Madison followed Jefferson's example. Throughout his administration Jefferson permitted church services in executive branch buildings. The Gospel was also preached in the Supreme Court chambers."

Hundreds of years later, militant secularists and atheists, media and activist judges have caused a dangerous level of ignorance and confusion about the wording and intent of the First Amendment. A survey by First Amendment Center found 66 percent of Americans believe the First Amendment requires "separation of church and state."

If we have separation of church and state, the state had best remove all those cross-shaped headstones in Arlington Cemetery.

See FIRST on Next Page



Why didn't you speak up?

It's not unprecedented for senators to part ways with presidents of their own party. But what's happening now among Republicans is definitely unusual.

Sens. Jeff Flake and Bob Corker have openly declared President Donald Trump to be unfit for the office. Sens. John McCain and Ben Sasse are close behind. Scores of other Republican members of Congress share their contempt for Trump, but stay quiet either out of fear or a calculation that Republican unity is the path to policy victories like a big tax cut.

But defections of mainstream conservatives like Flake and the others foreshadow a splintering of the Republican Party. Trump wants a party not committed to principles or policies, but only to the Trump brand, however he defines it.

Defections in the Senate aren't new. Democrats-turned-Republicans include Alabama's Richard Shelby in 1994 and South Carolina's Strom Thurmond 30 years earlier. Republicans-turned-Democrats include Vermont's Jim Jeffords in 2001 and Oregon's Wayne Morse in 1955. But these conversions made ideological sense, involving conservatives who found themselves more comfortable with Republicans and liberals who were sympathetic with Democrats.

Today's anti-Trump Republicans aren't more or less conservative than the rest of their party. Their objection to Trump concerns his character and competence, and his leadership of a party he defines largely by rage. Flake has one of the most conservative records in the Senate, but was destined for defeat in a Republican primary next year by a Trump-supporting hatemonger; he said he won't run for re-election.

In a remarkable speech delivered Tuesday on the Senate floor, the Arizona lawmaker lamented "the personal attacks, the threats against principles, freedoms and institutions, the flagrant disregard for truth or decency, the reckless provocations, most often for the pettiest and most personal reasons." He added, "Reckless, outrageous and undignified behavior has become excused and countenanced as 'telling it like it is' when it is actually just reckless, outrageous and undignified."

Bob Corker, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and once a candidate to be Trump's secretary of state, had worked hard to develop a constructive relationship with the president. But in a CNN interview on Tuesday, he said that Trump had "great difficulty with the truth." He told ABC News that Trump was "debasement" the U.S. Like Flake, the Tennessee Republican has decided not to seek re-election next year.

These Republicans generally disagree with Trump's preference for restrictions on trade and immigration, deplore his race-baiting and want more U.S. leadership in solving conflicts around

By ALBERT R. HUNT

Bloomberg View

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist. He was the executive editor of Bloomberg News, before which he was a reporter, bureau chief and executive Washington editor at the Wall Street Journal. Readers may email him at ahunt1@bloomberg.net.



the world. But disagreements on issues aren't the main thing that motivated them. They believe Trump's positions always are situational, that he lacks core beliefs and that he's determined to remake the Republicans in the Trump brand. There is not a single Republican officeholder to whom he feels any loyalty.

That makes future fissures inevitable, because if Trump is successful he will destroy the mainstream conservative Republican Party.

Some in that mainstream haven't given up on Trump. House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Sen. Lindsey Graham, among others, are sticking with the president because they figure that if they can pass a tax cut and some other legislation, it'll bring more party unity and modify his behavior.

They should pay attention to this line in Flake's speech: "We have fooled ourselves for long enough that a pivot to governing is right around the corner, a return to civility and stability right behind it. We know better than that."

Flake voted this year for a Republican health-care bill that was pushed to a vote without hearings and which few supporters even understood; that was indefensible. He naively supported the successful campaign against appropriations earmarks, which had done a lot to grease the way for constructive compromises. But he is nevertheless one of the more admirable senators I've covered, a principled conservative with an American Conservative Union voting record of more than 93 percent, one of the highest in the chamber.

The Flake speech may take its historical place alongside the 1950 address by Senator Margaret Chase Smith, her "declaration of conscience" denouncing Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

Flake asked his colleagues: "When the next generation asks us, 'Why didn't you do something, why didn't you speak up?'—what are we going to say?"

Were Ryan, McConnell, Graham and Senator Rob Portman listening? Gentlemen, what's your answer?

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Trump to Congress: Do your job

President Donald Trump's recent executive actions have upended official Washington. He has issued an executive order to terminate DACA, the program that allows immigrants who came to America as children to remain.

He has issued an executive order announcing his intention to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord. He has issued an executive order to terminate the EPA's Clean Power Plan. He has issued an executive order to end payments to health insurance companies to compensate them for subsidizing low-income Americans' health insurance policies. And he has announced that he will not certify that Iran is abiding by the terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the agreement to suspend Iran's nuclear weapons program.

All this has Washington atwitter. Clearly this is not business as usual. What are we to make of this? First, it may be worth noting that each of these actions reduces the scope and reach of the federal government. Antifa protesters—who seem to have no clue what fascism really is—might do well to understand that it is not normal fascist behavior to reduce the role of government in society or to break the government's connections with big businesses such as health insurance corporations.

Second, every one of these actions ends programs that were put in place by President Barack Obama—also by executive orders. Obama's DACA policy, which made sweeping law-like changes to immigration policy, was already facing a significant Constitutional challenge from more than half of America's state governments. So, too, with the Clean Power Plan, which one federal judge has already found to be unconstitutional. And so too with Obama's payments to health insurance companies.

The Constitution is quite clear that no federal dollars can be spent except through "appropriations made by law." Obama had no such appropriated funds, and spending money which the Congress never appropriated was also doomed to be overturned by the courts.

LITERARY NOOK

Hurrah for the Pumpkin Pie

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLY

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done? Hurrah for the pumpkin pie" —excerpt from Lydia M. Child's poem (1844) *Over the River and Through the Woods*

If you have never baked from scratch a pumpkin pie assemble, mix all the fresh ingredients and give it a try when viewing the final product folks say, Oh my gosh! did you actually bake that from a hard orange squash? chop up and boil or steam the insides of a pumpkin mix the milk and eggs and spices and dump them in for spices use cinnamon, nutmeg, cardamom, mace buy two, carve a scary or funny smile gap toothed face and while you are carving your orange jack-o-lantern don't forget please don't let that tender pie crust burn yes, I have two older brothers Michael and Peter who along with us younger ones are great pie eaters I had enough pie, next muffins I bake to stuff my gut I'll use an oblong tan colored squash called a butternut.

FIRST

From Page 10

etry—at the risk of civil war.

By protecting religious liberty for more than 200 years, we have avoided routine destruction of religious art by bigots who hate religion. In regions less protective of religious liberty, the Taliban and IS have destroyed dozens of centuries-old religious

The same is true of the Paris Climate Accord and the Iran nuclear deal. Obama submitted neither of these to the Senate for ratification for one very simple reason: There is no way either of these agreements would have received the needed two-thirds of the Senate to consent to ratify them.

It is fair enough to argue that since the Paris agreement didn't mandate any action on the part of the United States, it need not have been submitted as a treaty. But the same cannot be said about the Iran nuclear agreement. Here Obama took the easy way out.

In short, each of Trump's actions is a restoration of Constitutional government. It is not executive overreach to end programs created by executive overreach.

Finally, Trump's actions laid these issues where they squarely belong: in the lap of Congress. It is bad enough that successive Congresses have allowed recent presidents to conduct warfare in six different countries without authorizing the use of force. But for Congress to cede its authority to the president on immigration issues, health care issues, energy issues and environmental issues is wholly inexcusable.

President George W. Bush spoke about "the soft bigotry of low expectations." There is no group in America today for whom this phrase is more apt than the U.S. Congress. No one, including most members of Congress themselves, seems

How not to be a flop

Ihadn't seen her in the nine years since we'd graduated from high school until I ran into her at a party in Brooklyn. Back in the 1980s, long before social media kept everybody posted about everybody else's business, it was only through the chance collision of human beings that people discovered what their old classmates were doing. We'd actually been talking for a few minutes before she said, "Wait—are you Gina from Oceanside High School?" We'd been having a nice conversation, so I didn't immediately scream and flee.

I should have, because she then said, "Didn't you just say you're getting a Ph.D.?" When I nodded, she followed up with, "With your SATs, how can you be in a graduate program?"

And that's when I remembered who she was. She was the girl who knew everybody else's GPAs and how everybody else did on their standardized tests.

It overwhelmed me, remembering how small and stupid I felt when compared to her, and the memories were all the more ghastly because of their triviality.

Fiddling with my wine, I explained that I was just starting the program and that I was studying British literature. "Oh, you were always good in English." Satisfied that I didn't step outside her limited expectations for me, she pivoted on her heels and began speaking to somebody else.

On the long subway ride back to Manhattan, I realized that this woman was still judging people by how well they did on one test taken during their senior year. In that arena, she'd been successful. And nine years later, I was still letting myself feel dumb in her presence because of it.

That night, in 1984, I asked my notebook, "Is there a way to stop torturing myself by other people's definition of success?"

Thirty-seven years and I'm still asking the same question—but I have come to a few conclusions.

Success is first defined by our families, and those early ideas remain powerful.

True story: At 5, after watching an old musical about Broadway and imitating one of the stars, I announced "I wanna see my name up in lights!" Uncle Bill, without missing a beat, said, "Unless you change your name to 'Vacancy,' you're not gonna see your name in lights."

I grew up playing to a tough crowd. Even though I learned to be funny because it was the only way to survive, it came at a cost; funny always does. I learned to keep my ambitions to

memorials created by Buddhists, Christians and others with beliefs that offend sociopathic extremists.

The founders did not enact the establishment clause to protect government space from sights and sounds of religion. They did not set out to give secularist expressions special privilege over other forms of free speech.

Instead, founders precluded federal government from favoring one or more religions and excluding others. They wrote the free exercise clause to prevent future judicial activists and oth-

By JEFF BERGNER

The Virginian-Pilot



Jeff Bergner served in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. He currently lives in Norfolk, Va., and wrote this for the Virginian-Pilot.

to expect much from Congress today. And in that regard Congress hasn't disappointed.

In terminating existing programs, perhaps Trump can force Congress to act. After all that is just what Obama did in letting the Bush tax cuts expire and then bargaining with Congress from there. Perhaps Congress will pass a new version of DACA and other needed immigration reforms. Perhaps it will pass the Alexander-Murray compromise, or a different compromise, on health care. Perhaps Congress will sanction Iran for its failure to allow full inspections of its nuclear weapons program, its United Nations-prohibited ballistic missile program and its export of terrorism. We will see.

But if Congress doesn't act it is certainly not President Trump's fault.

By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant



Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

myself until I'd accomplished something.

But I learned to keep a firm hold on my ambitions nevertheless. I also learned how to embrace risk and cope with failure. We underestimate the significance of how to handle failure by encouraging people—especially young people—to avoid it, ignore it or dismiss it. Better to accept it, grapple with it and appreciate what it teaches.

You don't stop failing, ever. You just become more adept at making use of it.

Life slaps down different challenges, and on some days merely getting out of bed and taking a shower are authentic victories. On other days, you can clean the house, make food for a sick neighbor, finish a project and feel like you've accomplished almost nothing because you know you could have done more. On both days, you should give yourself a break, as long as you recalibrate and keep going.

Outward measures—money, style and influence—are no guarantees of genuine success because they can be lost in stock market crashes, changes of fashion and changes in politics. You don't carry success in your pockets or bank accounts, or on old sheepskins, or in the address books of the famous and fortunate. These can be erased as fast as the marks made by a No. 2 pencil.

Instead, while taking pleasure and pride from what you do well, understand that success, like love, changes over time. It deepens and grows calm. You're not competing against somebody else's idea of victory but internalizing the satisfactions of your achievements. This is why those who are genuinely successful in whatever they do understand that generosity is their real reward. Success is not something you hold onto: It's something you pass along.

ers in authority from interfering in the free exercise of religion on public or private space. They sought to protect all religious expression, which includes the Peace Cross.

If government destroys this veterans' memorial, it will damage freedom of speech and religion at an expense to nonbelievers and the faithful alike. We all need the First Amendment. So hope, or pray, the Supreme Court saves the Peace Cross.

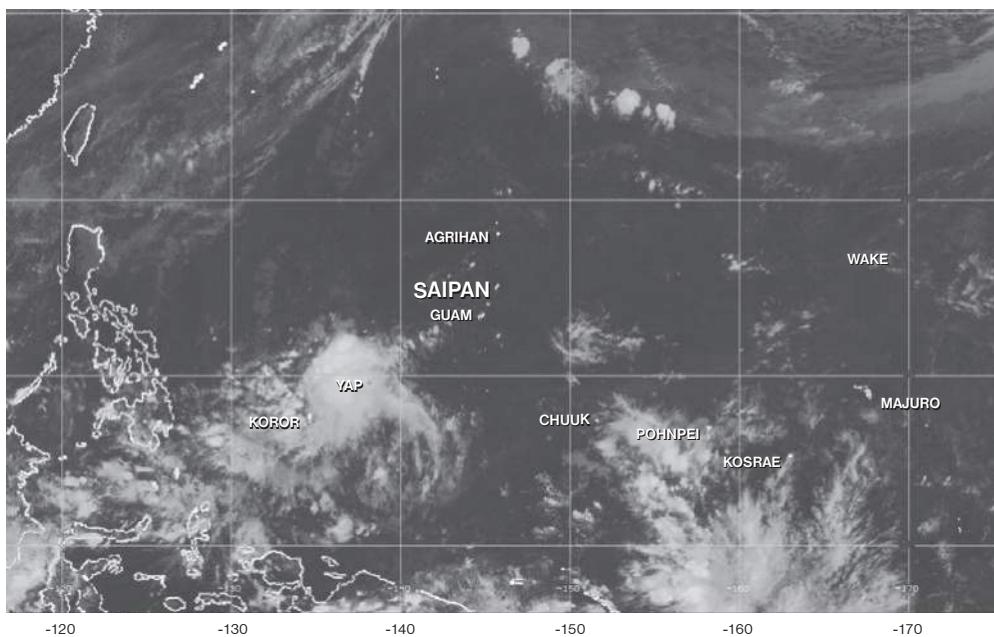
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers in the evening.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:59 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overall, a fairly dry and uneventful week is in store across the Marianas. A ridge will build over the region until midweek. Then, another disturbance will move south of the area. However, moisture will increase with it and with the increased convergence some guidance is suggesting there is the possibility of thunderstorms centered around Wednesday. Combined seas of 4 to 6 feet are expected the next few days. North swell will increase a bit today and then north and east swell will be the dominant swells for the balance of the upcoming week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84°	/	80°

AROUND THE GLOBE

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64°	/	57°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	63°	/	39°
Hong Kong	Sunny	77°	/	68°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83°	/	74°
London	Partly Cloudy	54°	/	46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73°	/	60°
Manila	Showers	88°	/	77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64°	/	52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	75°	/	67°
New York	Windy	58°	/	50°
Osaka	Sunny	64°	/	48°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55°	/	43°
Busan	Sunny	64°	/	50°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72°	/	48°
Salem	Sunny	64°	/	42°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61°	/	49°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	61°	/	43°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	61°	/	48°
Washington, DC	Sunny	58°	/	43°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

2:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.38
9:22 AM	LOW TIDE	0.32
4:23 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.83
10:45 PM	LOW TIDE	0.83

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:21 am	2:14 pm
Tuesday	-	2:12 am	2:57 pm
Wednesday	-	3:05 am	3:41 pm
Thursday	-	4:00 am	4:25 pm
Friday	-	4:56 am	5:11 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:15pm 7:05pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:00pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am 2, 3, 4				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
0Z626 2:10am 6:00am 1				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 1, 2, 3			
TW308							

**RESSURRECTION
CIRCLE**

Benjamin Abadilla
Juan Sasamoto Ada
Joseph Avery Aguon
Mario De Guia Ajoste
Fidel Barcina Atalig
Antonia Aldan Ayuyu
Harold Andrew Burnette Sr.
Antonia Sablan Camacho
Josepha King Camacho
Rodney Takai Camacho
Oscar Canaria Correa
Baldobino Borja Flores
Gi Cheol Han
Francis Palik Hicking
Jesus Hocog
Silvino Dadivas Jakosalem Jr.
Ju Young Kim
Boyuan "William" Liang
David Lochabay
Alberto Ramos
Winefreda Maratita Sablan
Lino Blanco Santos
Qian Bai Shou
Feng Pang Taitano
Emiliano Tiglao

ST. JOSEPH GARDENS

Daniel Tudela Muna

HATDIN FAMILIA

Maria Merced Celis Aaron
Vicente Aizon
Joseph Duenas Aldan
Ricardo Dela Cruz Camacho
Francisco Diaz Diaz
Maria Reiko Diaz
Juan Masga Deleon Guerrero
Thomas Masga Deleon Guerrero
Melchor Joseph Mendiola
Hadassah Palacios Murphy
Catrina Jean Pantaleon
Elena Ruzgal Parico
Marcelino Parico
Jose A. Tenorio

**FAMILY ESTATES-
MAUSOLEUM**

Letitia May Cabrera Borja
Calistro Camacho Cabrera
Jose Camacho Cabrera
Juan Camacho Cabrera
Rita Cruz Cabrera
Soledad Camacho Cabrera
Vicente Taisague Cabrera
Pedro De Leon Castro
Rita De Leon Castro
Solomon Diaz Castro
Virginia Camacho Castro
Angel Castro Cruz
Francisco Roberto Cruz
Josefa Castro Cruz
Soledad Castro Cruz
Rosalia De Leon

*May the angels lead you into paradise...
May you find eternal rest...*

MOUNT CARMEL GARDEN

Jose Cruz Aguon
Soledad Sablan Aguon
Victoria Pangelinan Alcantara
Jose Bisonia Avila Jr.
Juan Duenas Babauta
Jose "George" Quitugua Babauta
Urbano Crisostomo Babauta Sr.
Irene Kotomor Olopai Borja
Antonia Burnette
Harold Burnette Jr.
Marie Elaine Cabrera
Baby Caden Spirit Bigalbal Calvo
Francisco Camacho
Ellen Ebreo Castro
Frankie Babauta Castro
Joaquin Cabrera Cepeda
Xing Cui
Ramon Tydingco Fejeran
Pastor Balaquiedra Gagaring
Elizabeth Castro De Leon Guerrero
Francisca Santos De Leon Guerrero
Francisco Santos De Leon Guerrero
Joseph Cabrera De Leon Guerrero
Lourdes Cabrera De Leon Guerrero
Mercedes SN. De Leon Guerrero
Baby Angel Mary Epley
Baby Xiao Guo
Arsenia Dalayoan Hernandez
Brigido Sunga Hernandez
Ellery Bernard Hideos
Josephine Cabrera Hideos
Baby Dylan Jude C. Hockett
Angel Meisa Liao
Roger Nevin Ludwick
William Iglesias Macaranas
Georgina Ilo Mallens
Baby Zian Cayubit Navarro
Singhkita Nawaz
Arimitzu Nishimura
Abel Rabauliman Olopai
Baby Helen Kotomor Olopai
Carmen Kotomor Olopai
Titus Kotomor Olopai
Jude Kotomor Olopai
Eduardo P. Pangilinan
Abel Vincenzo Olopai Pellegrino
Anthony Pellegrino
Eileen Olopai Pellegrino
Francisco Quitano
Theresa Reyes Rasa
Baby Kaylie Havana DLG. Sablan
Gregorio Muna Quitugua
Clemente Santos Sablan
Magdalena Tudela Salas
Vicente Celis Salas
Vicente Manglona Sablan
Pedro Camacho San Nicolas
Maria Gina Handog Santos
Carmen Fejeran Soo
Arturo Cabales Travilla
Roberto Cabales Travilla
Pedro Wesley Torres
Antonio Maria Tudela Torres
Henry Dakano Tudela
Relina Dakano Tudela
Juan Diego Urumelog

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5:00 PM - ROSARY

5:30 PM - READING OF LOVED ONES NAME

6:00 PM - EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION
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MVA, Delta host travel agent familiarization tour

In the second of an ongoing cycle of familiarization tours for Japanese travel agents, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines hosted 10 agents on Oct. 14-17, 2017.

The tour allowed the Marianas ambassadors to gain firsthand knowledge of the islands to better sell the destination to potential visitors. Participating travel agencies were JTB World Vacations,

Inc., Toto Top Tours Co., Veltra, KNT-CT Holding Co., United Tours, Odakyu Travel, ST World Inc., KEIO Travel, and Travel Plaza International. The group was also joined by a representative from Delta.

"We're very pleased to have a continuing strong relationship with Delta Air Lines, which provides critical daily service to the Marianas from Tokyo," said MVA acting

managing director Judy Torres. "Through this three-part series of travel agent [familiarization] tours, we are working to revive the Japan market by giving influential tour agents a chance to experience the Marianas for themselves and become better equipped to develop new tour products and sell the destination. There's nothing more convincing than having



Travel agents from Japan visit Hard Rock Café Saipan on Oct. 15, 2017, as part of a familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines.

MVA



Travel agents from Japan pose with dancers at the Joyful Dinner Show at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Oct. 14, 2017, as part of a familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines.

MVA

first-hand experience."

The group inspected accommodations at Mariana Lounge, Grandvrio Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Kensington Resort Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan World Resort, and Pa-

cific Islands Club Saipan.

Dining was experienced at Hard Rock Café Saipan, Bubba Gump Shrimp, and Casa Urashima.

Additional activities included an eco-adventure tour with Marianas Trekking, marine sports on Managaha Island, Sea Touch, a Marpi

sightseeing tour, and Joyful Dinner Show at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The group lodged at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan during their tour. Nine travel agents participated in the first tour in September, and another tour is scheduled for Dec. 1-4, 2017. (MVA)

Competition boosts GCA students' talents

Filomenaleonisa Iakopo had an amazing experience in joining the National Junior Speech & Debate Association competition in the 6th-8th grade category for the first time.

A 6th grader at Grace Christian Academy, Iakopo said she was nervous, excited, and confident all at the same time.

"I joined this competition was because I want to set a goal for myself that I possibly could reach. I want to make my parents proud as well as my school, my coach, and myself. I want to thank GCA for this opportunity and to my coach, Miss Grace Duran, for all the support and everything," she added.

Iakopo, who won first place in Prose Reading, is one of the 25 GCA competitors at the NJSDA and NSDA (National Speech & Debate Association for 9th-12th grade) last Oct. 21, 2017, at Oleai Elementary School.

All of the GCA competitors emerged winners. Some won in two or all events and most of them won at least one event they joined in.

These competitions encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in reading, public speaking, debate, and interpretations.

NJSDA (6TH-8TH GRADE)

Duo Interpretation A

Kei Lizama, 5th Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation B

Soleil Lamar, 2nd Place
Brandie Matsumoto, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speech C

James Alexander Keaton, 1st Place
Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 4th Place
Michelle Ji Yeon Jeon, 5th Place

Impromptu Speech D

Anthony Jacob DLG Camacho, 1st Place

Extemporaneous Speech A

James Alexander Keaton, 1st Place
Anthony Jacob DLG Camacho, 2nd Place

Prose Reading A

Ashley Ji Hye Jeon, 1st Place
Hannah Tenorio, 2nd Place
Luis Jerome Gaspar, 4th Place

Prose Reading B

Filomenaleonisa Iakopo, 1st Place

Prose Reading Masters A

Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 3rd Place

Prose Reading Masters B

James Alexander Keaton, 4th Place

Poetry Reading A

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 3rd Place



Grace Christian Academy's October winners at the National Junior Speech & Debate Association and National Speech & Debate Association have their picture taken at the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella library inside the school's Navy Hill campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Poetry Reading Masters A

Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 2nd Place

Poetry Reading Masters B

Steven Adriatico, 5th Place
Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 4th Place

Chamorro Prose Reading

Hannah Tenorio, 4th Place

NJSDA (9TH-12TH GRADE)

Dramatic Interpretation A

Kaydie Claude Aquino, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading A

Seong Beom Kevin Song,

5th Place

Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st Place

Original Oratory A

Na Lee Christy Lee, 2nd Place

Commentary

Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st Place

Ao Pheng Louis Zheng

4th Place

Chener Oscar Li

5th Place

Original Oratory B

Sumin Melody Woo, 5th Place

US Extemporaneous

Speech

Arvin Dayao, 3rd Place

International Extemporaneous Speech

Na Lee Christy Lee, 3rd Place

Impromptu Speech D

Sumin Melody Woo, 2nd Place

Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st Place

Johnny Jin, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading Masters A

Kaydie Claude Aquino, 4th Place

Prose Reading B

Na Lee Christy Lee, 1st Place

NJSDA/NSDA coach/co-ordinator: Grace Duran

Competition registrar: Esther Manzano

Judges: Laila Portuguez, Courtney Poppinga, Mirasol Dayao, Aaron Cabug (PR)

Guam group holds donation drive for dog shelter

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Family Readiness Group for Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Key West* hosted a donation drive for a local animal shelter at the Orote Commissary on Naval Base Guam, on Oct. 20 and 21.

Volunteers from the FRG handed out lists of suggested donation items while Specialist Chris Rodriguez, an Army veterinarian technician assigned to Boller Veterinary Clinic, distributed informational pamphlets on medical issues effecting animals in Guam to include heat stress and parasites.

"The *Key West* FRG was pleased to have had the opportunity to collect much-needed supplies and funds for the local animal shelter," said Angie Hill, wife of *Key West*'s commanding officer, Cmdr. J. Grady Hill. "The shelter provides an extremely important resource in reducing the stray animal population, spaying and neutering, and rehoming animals."

Requested donation items included dog and cat food, non-clumping cat litter, paper towels, garbage bags and bleach. In total, the FRG collected more than 850 needed items and \$600 for a local animal shelter during the two-day drive.

"We were blown away by the generosity of our community," said Jennifer Everhart, *Key West* FRG President. "[The local animal shelter] was ecstatic each day to see the abundance of critical donations as they were running low. The shelter runs near full capacity all the time, meaning

they constantly and consistently need supplies. All the gifts go toward helping the stray animals on our island home. We at the FRG of the *USS Key West* are happy to organize and contribute to this great local non-profit organization, and we look forward to helping more in the future."

The commissary on Naval Base Guam was glad to support the *Key West* FRG's donation drive, understanding the importance of providing assistance to the local animal shelter.

"Our staff here at the Orote Commissary recognizes that we support a small and closely knit community," said Leslie Carroll, store director for the commissary. "Any time there is an opportunity to support our military and their families we are happy to do so. I hope that all of the donations raised by the FRG with the Commisary's support are able to help sustain the local animal shelter and the very valuable service it provides to this community."

FRG volunteers left the commissary with truckloads filled to the brim with donations on both days, delivering goods and money to the animal shelter.

"Our FRG is comprised of many animal lovers, and as a group, we were eager to help make a difference," said Hill. "Our success was made possible by the generous contributions of our Naval Base Guam community and the support of the Orote Commissary."

Guam's local animal shelter takes in stray and abandoned

cats and dogs from across Guam and ensures they are healthy and happy until ready for foster or adoption. To support your local animal shelter, you can donate money or items during supply drives, volunteer at the shelter, or foster or adopt a new furry friend.

"The Orote Commissary is always ready to support any community initiative that we can," said Carroll. "I'm always happy to provide whatever we can to support our military and

their family members."

Key West is assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 15, which is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam in Apra Harbor, Guam, and consists of four Los Angeles-class attack submarines. The squadron staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS

Frank Cable (AS 40) and USS Emory S. Land (AS 39). The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, visit our official CSS-15 website at <http://www.csp.navy.mil/css15> and our official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Subma>

rineSquadron15/.

Are you interested in taking orders to Guam? Want to learn more about the duty station and life on our island? For more information, check out the 'Go Guam!' website at <http://www.csp.navy.mil/go-guam/> and download the '1st Fifteen' checklist.

If you are interested in contacting the Orote Commissary, email the store director at leslie.carroll@deca.mil or call 671-339-5177. (PR)

Country music star tours Guam submarine



APRA HARBOR, Guam—Country music singer Hunter Hayes signs an autograph for Electronics Technician Submarines (Navigation) 2nd Class Joshua Lane after a shipboard tour of Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Topeka* on Oct. 21. Hayes and his band performed at Naval Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base as part of a Pacific tour of military bases sponsored by Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Navy Entertainment to boost morale of service members serving overseas.

LT. LAUREN SPAZIANO

the singer and his band topside before heading inside the submarine to tour the control room, living quarters, torpedo room and mess decks.

"We're honored to be here," said Hayes. "We've been looking forward to the tour, and seeing the submarine was a privilege. We really appreciate you letting us see what the sailors do on a daily basis."

Hayes posed for photographs and signed autographs with sailors and family members before leaving the pier to prepare for his performance.

"I'm thrilled Hunter Hayes is in Guam to support our troops," said Lizzie Thomas, a military spouse whose husband is assigned to Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Key West*. "It was exciting to meet him, and I'm looking forward to seeing more country music out here [in] Guam!"

As a salute to the crew, Hayes wore his new *Topeka* ball cap as he sang and played guitar during

his show at NBG.

"We appreciate Hunter Hayes and his band's support of the military [in] Guam," said Tarr. "It's great to have a very popular entertainer come out here for the sailors, other service members and their families. A big thanks to Navy Entertainment and MWR for coordinating the performances here."

Hayes and his band began their Pacific tour in Hawaii and will head to Japan and South Korea next for a total of nine performances on Navy, Army and Air Force bases.

"Hunter is super excited to be [in] Guam," said Karen Fritz, head of Special Events and Entertainment at Navy Entertainment. "Our Pacific tour is his second tour with Navy Entertainment. He is a huge fan of the military and loves spending time with the troops."

Hayes' Pacific tour is sponsored Navy MWR and Navy Entertainment, a division of

Navy MWR, to boost morale of service members in Guam. Navy Entertainment delivers quality celebrity shows to Navy locations and ships at sea.

Topeka is assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, which is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam in Apra Harbor, Guam, and consists of four Los Angeles-class attack submarines. The COMSUBRON 15 staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS *Frank Cable* and USS *Emory S. Land*. The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements.

For more news from COMSUBRON 1, visit the official CSS-15 website at <http://www.csp.navy.mil/css15> and official Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/SubmarineSquadron15/](https://www.facebook.com/SubmarineSquadron15).

Are you interested in taking orders to Guam? Want to learn more about the duty station and life on the island? For more information, check out the 'Go Guam!' website at <http://www.csp.navy.mil/go-guam/> and download the '1st Fifteen' checklist.

For more information about Navy Entertainment, visit its website at <http://www.navy-mwr.org/entertainment/> or its official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/navyentertainment/>. (PR)

Grief support group to meet on Nov. 2

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Nov. 2, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to parents, siblings, and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of

any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to

share or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and

Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit its website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

Comments sought for PA memo on Marine Corps' relocation to Guam

PITI, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas announced Friday the availability of a Programmatic Agreement Memo for public review and comments through Dec. 4, 2017.

This 45-day public comment period is for PA Memo 1a, which is specific to the determination of effects of the Northern Ungulate Fence for Forest Enhancement on Guam for project J-001B, the Marine Corps main cantonment on Naval Computer Telecommunication Station at Finegayan, Guam. The purpose of this project is to provide ungulate control fencing to meet the obligation for forest enhancement in the North Finegayan area. This is PA Memo 1a for this project, having previously addressed comments from the Guam Historic Preservation Office on PA Memo 1. To obtain and download a copy of PA Memo 1a, visit the NAVFAC Pacific Cultural Information

webpage at <http://go.usa.gov/kZWG>. (Please note the URL is case sensitive).

Community members may submit comments via email to criwebcomment@navy.mil.

In addition, the public is encouraged to subscribe to regular updates and other information related to the Programmatic Agreement by visiting the Joint Region Marianas Web page and signing up at the following link: <https://go.usa.gov/x5BQS>.

Those without internet access may obtain a printed copy of the PA Memo from the Guam Historic Resources Division at 490 Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, 96910 (in the Department of Parks and Recreation Office). PA Memos provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to participate in the Section 106 consultation process required under the National Historic Preservation Act. (USN)

28th Annual Club 200

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



Joaquin Amirez is awarded the Volunteer of the Year plaque at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Department of Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Clyde Norita receives the Department of the Year award on behalf of his department at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



The Dunn family, dressed as Sharknado, wins best costume at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



The Beyer family, dressed as Poseidon, a mermaid, and a crab, wins second place in the best costume competition at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



The O'Malleys, dressed as confused tourists, won third place in the best costume competition at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



The Marianas Music Association performs at the 28th annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Winners of the treasure chest raffle gather for their treasure chest keys at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Keli Tenorio, left, and Kip Aiko pose for a photo after winning the dance competition at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Many join the dance competition at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter staff conducts the raffle drawing for the \$15,000 grand prize at the 28th Annual Club 200 fundraiser hosted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Asia

Pentagon chief says N. Korea engages in 'outlaw' behavior

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The threat of nuclear missile attack by North Korea is accelerating, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Saturday, accusing the North of illegal and unnecessary missile and nuclear programs and pledging to repel any strike.

In remarks in Seoul with South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo at his side, Mattis said North Korea engages in "outlaw" behavior and that the U.S. will never accept a nuclear North.

The Pentagon chief added that regardless of what the North might try, it is overmatched by the firepower and cohesiveness of the decades-old U.S.-South Korean alliance.

"North Korea has accelerated the threat that it poses to its neighbors and the world through its illegal and unnecessary missile and nuclear weapons programs," he said, adding that U.S.-South Korean military and diplomatic collaboration thus has taken on "a new urgency."

"I cannot imagine a condition under which the United States would accept North Korea as a nuclear power," Mattis said.

As he emphasized throughout his weeklong Asia trip, which included stops in Thailand and the Philippines, Mattis said diplomacy remains the preferred way to deal with the North.

"With that said," he added, "make no mistake—any at-

tack on the United States or our allies will be defeated, and any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response that is effective and overwhelming."

Mattis' comments did not go beyond his recent statements of concern about North Korea, although he appeared to inject a stronger note about the urgency of resolving the crisis.

While he accused the North of "outlaw" behavior, he did not mention that President Donald Trump has ratcheted up his own rhetoric. In August, Trump warned the North not to make any more threats against the United States, and said that if it did, it would be met with "fire and fury like the world has never seen."

Song said at the news conference that he and Mattis agreed to further cooperation on strengthening Seoul's defense capabilities, including lifting warhead payload limits on South Korean conventional missiles and supporting the country's acquisition of "most advanced military assets." He offered no specifics and refused to answer when asked whether the discussions included nuclear-powered submarines.

Some South Korean government officials have endorsed the nation getting nuclear-powered submarines amid calls for more military strength. There's a growing concern among the South Korean public that North Korea's

expanding nuclear weapons arsenal, which may soon include an intercontinental ballistic missile that could target the U.S. mainland, would undermine Seoul's long alliance with Washington.

South Korea's conservative politicians have also called for the United States to bring back tactical nuclear weapons that were withdrawn from the Korean Peninsula in the 1990s. But Mattis and Song were strongly dismissive of the idea.

"When considering national interest, it's much better not to deploy them," said Song, adding that the allies would have "sufficient means" to respond to a North Korean nuclear attack even without placing tactical nuclear weapons in the South. Mattis said current U.S. strategic assets are already providing nuclear deterrence and that the South Korean government has never approached him with the subject of tactical nuclear weapons.

Trump entered office declaring his commitment to solving the North Korea problem, asserting that he would succeed where his predecessors had failed. His administration has sought to increase pressure on Pyongyang through U.N. Security Council sanctions and other diplomatic efforts, but the North hasn't budged from its goal of building a full-fledged nuclear arsenal, including missiles capable of striking the U.S. mainland.

for bodies still trapped in the wreckage, which was mostly submerged in the river. The bodies were pulled out from the site, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of the capital, Kathmandu. "We have already pulled out 31 bodies, but we believe there could be more bodies trapped in the wreckage," Bhandari said by phone from the accident site.

Earthquake jolts northern Pakistan, Afghan mountain range

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—An earthquake has struck the Hindu Kush mountain range in Afghanistan and was strongly felt in northern Pakistan. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake had a magnitude of 5.2, while Pakistan's meteorological department said it was magnitude 5.9 with its epicenter in the Afghan mountain range. The USGS said the Saturday night quake had a depth of 101 kilometers. The earthquake was felt from tribal regions along the Afghan border in the north to the eastern city of Lahore and its surrounding areas in Punjab province. There were no immediate reports of damage. Northern Pakistan is on earthquake fault line. In 2005 a major earthquake caused massive damages in northern Pakistan and in the Pakistani part of the disputed Kashmir region, killing more than 70,000 people

World

Ousted Catalan leader vows peaceful resistance to Spain

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Catalonia's ousted leader called for peaceful opposition to Spain's decision to take direct control of the region, saying Saturday that he and other regional officials fired by the central government will keep "working to build a free country."

Carles Puigdemont's comments, made in a recorded televised address that was broadcast as he sat in a cafe in his hometown of Girona, were a veiled refusal to accept his Cabinet's dismissal as ordered by central authorities.

They came a day after one of the most tumultuous days in Spain's recent history, when Catalan lawmakers in Barcelona passed a declaration of independence Friday for the prosperous northeastern region, and the national parliament in Madrid approved unprecedented constitutional measures to halt the secessionist drive.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy also dissolved the regional parliament and called a new regional election to be held on Dec. 21.

In his televised statement, Puigdemont said only the regional parliament can



AP
Catalan President Carles Puigdemont speaks during a statement at the Palau Generalitat in Barcelona, Spain, on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017.

elect or dismiss the Catalan government, vowing to "continue working to build a free country."

"The best way we have to defend the achievements to date is the democratic opposition to the application of Article 155," Puigdemont said in reference to the constitutional clause that gave Madrid direct control of affairs in Catalonia.

Despite his defiant tone and the use of the official Catalan government emblem, the Catalan and European Union flags but no sign of the Spanish one, some political commentators saw his mention of "democratic opposition"

as laying the groundwork for political campaigning for the regional election in less than two months.

"Our will is to continue working to fulfill the democratic mandates and at the same time seek the maximum stability and tranquility," Puigdemont said. Separatists argue that a controversial victory in a banned Oct. 1 referendum legitimizes them to split from Spain.

Andrew Dowling, a specialist in Catalan history at Cardiff University in Wales, said the statement was "vague and imprecise, certainly not like the president of a new country."

Their caliphate in ruins, IS militants melt into the desert

BEIRUT (AP)—Islamic State militants, routed from one urban stronghold after another in Syria, have recently been moving deeper into Syria's remote desert, where experts say they are regrouping and preparing their next incarnation.

The Sunni militants' self-proclaimed "caliphate" with its contiguous stretch of land—linking major cities such as Syria's Raqqa and Iraq's Mosul—may have been vanquished, but many agree this territorial defeat will not mark the end of IS.

Beyond the urban and inhabited areas lies the vast Syrian Desert, also known as Badiyat al-Sham, famous for its caves and rugged mountains. It encompasses about 500,000 square kilometers (200,000 square miles) across parts of southeastern Syria, northeastern Jordan, northern Saudi Arabia, and western Iraq.

The desolate landscape is a perfect hideout and a second home for many IS militants from the days before the birth of their caliphate.

Experts estimate that hundreds of thousands of troops would be needed to mount search operations—and even more to put the desert under permanent control.

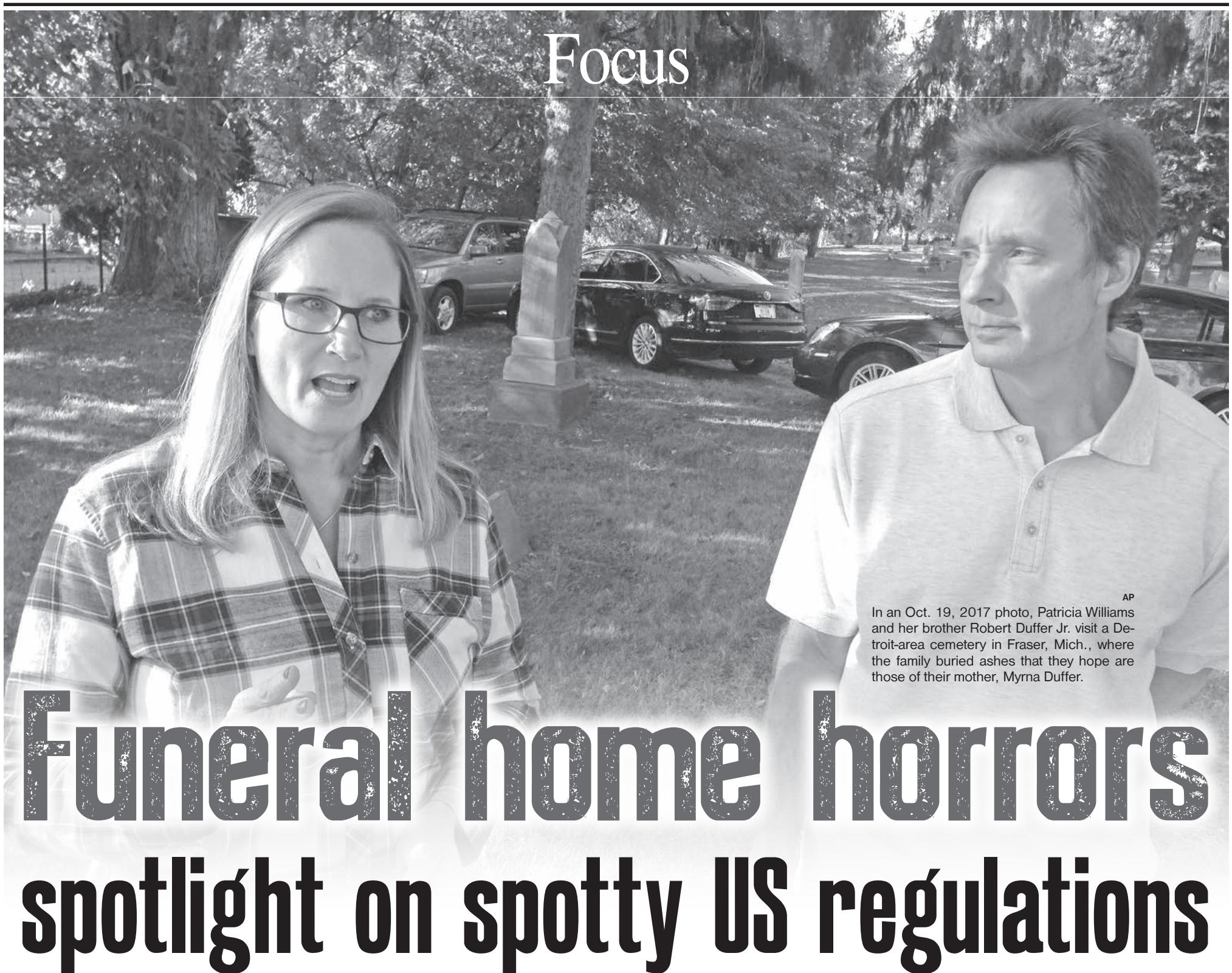
Once they melt into the desert, without an army of tens of thousands of supporters from dozens of countries, IS jihadis will resort to guerrilla-style attacks: scattered hit-and-run attacks and suicide bombings.

"They love fighting battles in the desert and they will go back to the old ways," said Omar Abu Laila, a Europe-based opposition activist originally from Syria's eastern province of Deir el-Zour, which lies in the heart of Badiyat al-Sham.

IS leaders appear to have made contingency plans that involve precisely this—regrouping in the desert and launching attacks, much like IS' predecessor, al-Qaida in Iraq, did for more than a decade after the U.S.-led 2003 invasion.

Some of those plans are already on display. In the east-

Focus



AP

In an Oct. 19, 2017 photo, Patricia Williams and her brother Robert Duffer Jr. visit a Detroit-area cemetery in Fraser, Mich., where the family buried ashes that they hope are those of their mother, Myrna Duffer.

Funeral home horrors spotlight on spotty US regulations

By COREY WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT (AP)—The stench of decomposing flesh pulsed from a funeral home into a Michigan neighborhood as maggots wriggled along the garage floor near cardboard-boxed corpses stacked along walls.

The dead can't complain, but on occasion—through rot—they scream for judgment against the living entrusted with prompt and solemn cremation or burial. Of 10 bodies found in the unrefrigerated garage at Swanson Funeral Home in Flint last year, one was not embalmed and had been there about six weeks. The Michigan attorney general filed complaints against the business, but it remained open until July—after inspectors again found bodies in the unrefrigerated garage.

The Flint business is one of several funeral homes in the U.S. in recent years that have been forced to close after similarly gruesome discoveries, usually only after someone has complained to local authorities. Funeral home regulations vary across the U.S., with some states requiring an-

nual inspections and several requiring no inspections at all. Michigan is among those that review funeral homes when they apply for a license or when a complaint is filed.

"I think better state oversight is certainly the solution," but "it's really going to be a budget thing," said Scott Gilligan, general counsel of the National Funeral Directors Association. "Most states are struggling with budgets. It costs more money to hire inspectors and hire better enforcement."

The Flint funeral home had been fined several times and faced multiple complaints before Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs suspended licenses of the business and its manager, O'Neil Swanson II. The move followed an unannounced inspection in May that was spurred by news reports that staff had mixed up two bodies.

Before that, Michigan's attorney general had filed gross negligence, incompetence and other complaints in September 2016 after the 10 bodies were found in the garage. And in 2015, an outside funeral director complained

to the state about problems that included the smell of decomposition and blood and fluids on the floor of a basement prep room, according to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs documents.

But Robert Duffer says inspectors would have found something amiss even before then if they had looked into a complaint from his family after the 2012 death of his wife. Duffer's family believes they were given ashes belonging to someone else.

"The place was filthy," Duffer, 77, told The Associated Press. "It was like an ancient room that'd never been cleaned."

When the family tried to retrieve Myrna Duffer's remains, an employee took 45 minutes before returning with a white paper bag filled with ashes, the couple's daughter, Patricia Williams, said. There was nothing to indicate the ashes were Duffer's.

"That's all we got," said Williams, 53. "So, then we knew we did not have my mom."

Williams says her family complained to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and other

state officials, but that nothing was ever done. The state agency declined to comment beyond its complaint filed in July. Also, multiple messages were left for O'Neil Swanson II seeking comment, and it's not clear whether he has an attorney.

Swanson Funeral Home operates prominent facilities in Detroit. State officials say the funeral home in Flint is a separate legal entity and license from any facility in Detroit.

It was complaints about employee working conditions that initially led inspectors to the Flint funeral home, according to the state's complaint.

Complaints also led to this summer's closure of Premium Mortuary Services in Carlisle, Ohio, where one body had mold while the face of another that arrived in March "was beginning to mummify," according to an inspector's report.

Ohio's funeral board sends an inspector annually. Maine does random inspections. North Carolina and New Hampshire require them every three years. But no inspections are required in Alaska, Delaware, Iowa and Colorado, according to the International Conference of Funeral Service

Examining Boards.

Florida inspects at least annually, but was unaware of problems at Brock's Home Town Funeral Home in Panama City until contacted by the local sheriff's office, which found 16 bodies rotting there in August 2016.

One belonged to 88-year-old Ada Kimble, whose body had been there for about 10 days before her family learned it had not been cremated.

"I think the state should check more regularly, just like in a restaurant when the health inspector checks," said Kimble's daughter, Mary Clay.

Brock's funeral director Gregory Dunphy and manager Felicia Boesch were charged with misdemeanor mishandling human remains.

Defense attorney Steven Meadows declined to allow Dunphy to comment, but an investigative report says it was Dunphy who initially called authorities, telling the sheriff's office the "funeral home was out of money and the bodies ... were going bad."

Boesch entered into an agreement with prosecutors that included dismissal of charges if she completes pro-

bation, said attorney Anthony Graham.

Graham said Brock's was owned by Boesch's father and that she had turned in a resignation letter before the bodies were found.

"It appears Mr. Dunphy literally got overwhelmed," Graham said. "There's no evidence that anyone was pirating away a bunch of money."

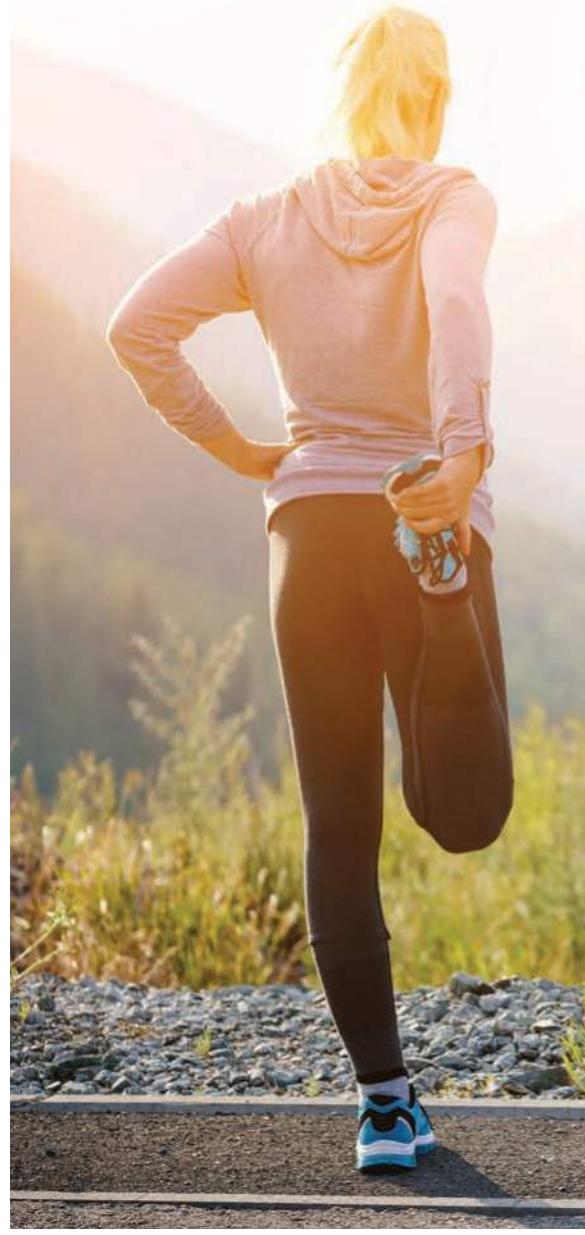
What took place at Brock's was "a rare occurrence" in Florida, said Jon Moore, spokesman for the state's Financial Services Department, which oversees funeral homes. The agency did just under 2,000 inspections and investigations in 2016-17.

"Our state is growing and we have a large elderly population," Moore said. "As we see that growth, we are working to make sure we keep up with any harmful trends that may develop within the industry."

Among the bodies found rotting at Brock's was that of 71-year-old Linda Bailey, who had died six weeks earlier.

"That image that I had of my mom just killed me. It breaks me down every time," Jerry Bailey said.

Health & Fitness



Which stretches to do, avoid

Dear Mayo Clinic: I recently started jogging for exercise. I have been stretching before each run, but I've heard that some stretches increase your risk of injury. Which stretches should I do, and which should I avoid?

A Stretching is an important part of your exercise routine, as it increases your flexibility and improves your joints' range of motion. Typically, the best time to stretch is after a workout when your muscles are warm and more receptive to stretching. Performing a variety of basic stretches that focus on major muscle groups generally is recommended to protect you from exercise-related injuries.

One of the significant benefits you get from stretching is ensuring that you have optimal range of motion around your joints. Full range of motion around your joints enables your muscles to work most effectively. Stretching also helps establish and maintain equal flexibility on both sides of your body. If a muscle on one side of your body is tighter than the same muscle

on the other side, your risk for injury can increase due to the imbalance.

Getting into the habit of stretching your major muscle groups after each workout can be a good way to begin a routine of stretching. For runners, it's a good idea to regularly stretch your calf muscles, quadriceps, hamstrings, hip flexors and iliotibial bands (also known as the ITB).

Your calf muscle runs along the back of your lower leg. The quadriceps muscle runs along the front of your thigh, and the hamstring is on the back of your thigh. Hip flexors, which enable you to lift your knees and flex at the waist, are on your upper thighs—just below your hip bones. Your ITB is a band of tissue that runs along the outside of your hip, thigh and knee.

In addition to stretching those muscles, a knee-to-chest stretch that stretches the muscles of the lower back also can be useful. Find detailed instructions for stretching each of these muscle groups by searching for "Slideshow: A guide to basic stretches" on Mayo Clinic's website, mayoclinic.org.

Research has suggested that doing these types of stretches, known as static stretch-

es, just before activities that involve running or jumping can cause a small decrease in athletic performance. Instead, warm up with an aerobic activity, such as jogging or cycling, for five to 10 minutes before you stretch. Or, better yet, wait until after you are done with your aerobic workout, and then go through a series of stretches. If you don't exercise regularly, you may want to stretch a few times a week after a brief warmup to maintain your flexibility.

As you stretch, hold your stretches steady, and don't bounce. Bouncing can cause injury to your muscles. Don't hold your breath. Instead, breathe regularly and easily through your stretches. You shouldn't feel pain as you stretch—only light pulling. To gain the most benefit from stretching, hold each stretch for at least 30 seconds.

If you have health concerns or injuries, talk to your health care provider or a physical therapist before you start a routine of stretching. He or she can review your situation and help you determine which stretches are best for you. (Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)

Stretching is an important part of any exercise routine.
DREAMSTIME/TNS

7 Habits of highly fit people

By KIMBERLY GARRISON
PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

Everybody knows that in order to accomplish something, be it big or small, you must set a goal. It doesn't matter if the goal is to lose 10 pounds, to eat healthier or to work out consistently.

Although we probably all agree that goal-setting is necessary, the real problem is not setting the goal, but sticking with it. Talk is cheap, and if you really want to achieve your goals this summer, fitness or otherwise, you really need a plan.

To help you get it right this summer, here are my seven habits of highly fit people:

1 Set a goal. Similar to a business metric, you must set quantifiable fitness and health goals. For example, if your cholesterol is 250, give yourself the goal of getting it down to 200 by your next checkup, as opposed to just wishing that number would go down. Take concrete steps, like limiting or eliminating your consumption of high-cholesterol foods, like butter, cheese, eggs and meat. If weight loss is also a goal, commit to a number, let's say 20 pounds, and figure out how many weeks or months it will take you to safely reach your goal. If you stay committed to your commitments, you can safely lose 20 pounds in 10 weeks. If you want to improve your muscle tone and strength, give yourself a goal like achieving 10 perfect push-ups in eight weeks, and so on. Otherwise you are just wishing for results as opposed to planning and tracking your success. A wish requires no action on your part, but a plan does.

2 Write it down. Some wise person once said "failing to plan is planning to fail." Write down every single thing you would like to accomplish to improve your health, diet and workouts. You are far more likely to reach your goals if you write them down.

3 Avoid portion distortion. Many people mistakenly think that working out is a license to eat not only whatever they want, but also unlimited quantities. Nothing could be further from the truth. With or without exercise, if you consume more calories than you burn each day you will gain weight. If you're aiming for a sixpack, guess what—it starts in the kitchen, baby. At the minimum, diet is 80 percent of the equation and exercise

is 20 percent but you still have to do both. There are no shortcuts, and no amount of exercise can replace poor nutrition.

4 Make fitness a priority. Who has time for fitness, right? Wrong! These days everyone is sleep-deprived and working 60 or more hours a week. At least, those are some of the excuses people give for not exercising. If you plan to get fit you must make fitness a priority and plan a daily date at the gym, your basement or bedroom for a workout. Also, I'll let you in on another little secret: You're more likely to get it in if you do it in the morning. The later it gets in the day, the more likely you'll blow off your exercise routine. Besides, when you prioritize your fitness first, you are making an investment in your most significant asset—you.

5 Follow the Boy Scouts. "Be Prepared." Preparation is 90 percent of your success. Get organized, prepare your meals, buy your gear, sneakers, gym bag, toiletry items, etc. In short, leave no room for failure or excuses. Buy what you need, prepare the night before, pack your lunch and leave your gym bag at the front door.

6 Exercise effectively. Are you exercising on a regular basis, say, three to four times a week, but still not getting the results you want? If so, then you must ask yourself: How effective is my exercise routine, or what's up with my diet? It's not enough to simply go through the motions, you want to be sure you are exercising and eating correctly, otherwise you could be getting diminishing returns. If you are not getting the results you want, then it is likely time to increase either the speed, length or the intensity of your training program, and/or to shake up your diet. So, look at your routine and decide which training variables you need to change.

7 Set realistic goals. Don't expect to lose 50 pounds in five weeks or expect to look like an elite athlete after only four weeks of training. Losing one to two pounds a week is not just acceptable, but a rather lofty goal. Two pounds is the equivalent of 7,000 calories, and that's no joke. Focus on the tangibles, like preparing healthy meals, getting stronger, increasing stamina, getting more muscle and losing body fat. Looking good and feeling great are the rewards for your efforts. It's a lifestyle, and what you put in is what you'll get out.

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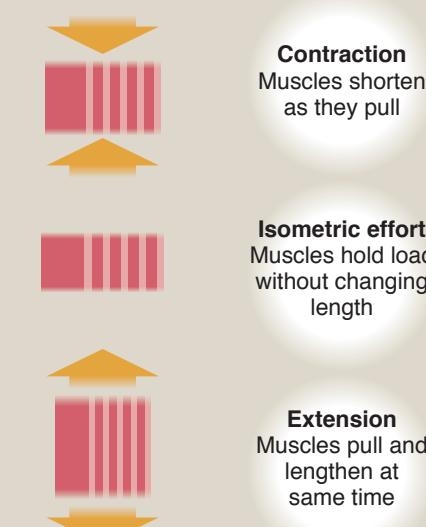
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Why working out works

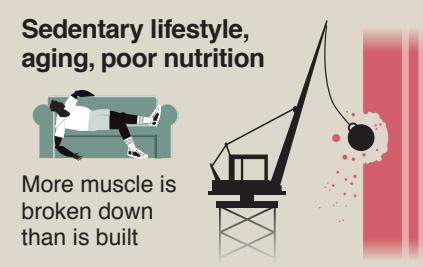
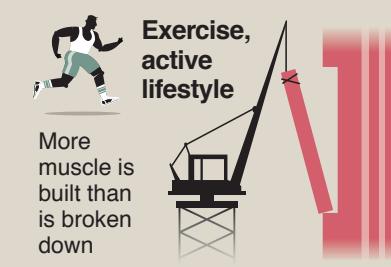
Muscles change in response to work they have done.

Muscles work three ways



Muscles are constantly built, torn apart

Enzymes constantly break down old protein fibers in muscles and control the making of new ones



All three types of movement make muscles grow larger, but isometric exercise does not promote muscle cell construction

Life & Style

Annabella Sciorra alleges she was raped by Harvey Weinstein

NEW YORK (AP)—Annabella Sciorra is alleging she was raped by Harvey Weinstein after he barged his way into her apartment in the 1990s.

Daryl Hannah is also speaking out, saying the movie mogul once tried to force his way into her hotel room.

The actresses were quoted this week in *The New Yorker*. Sciorra told the magazine that Weinstein "shoved" her onto her bed and they had nonconsensual sexual intercourse.



Sciorra

Hannah recalled fleeing her hotel room as Weinstein demanded to be let in.

Sciorra and Hannah are the latest in dozens of women who have spoken

out against Weinstein. Allegations range from unwanted advances to rape. He has been ousted from his own company and expelled from the motion picture academy. A Weinstein spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ashley Judd: 'Tipping point' on sexual harassment is here

NEW YORK (AP)—Ashley Judd says the continuing flurry of allegations against Harvey Weinstein means society is at a "tipping point" on sexual harassment.

The actress added that "this will be the end of it if we decide that's what we want" before being honored at the Women's Media Center Awards in New York on Thursday.

Judd has been discussing her personal accusations of harassment by Weinstein in recent weeks. Judd was one of the women whose stories were included in reporting about the allegations that led to the movie mogul's downfall. She says she feels loved, adored and supported after coming forward with her story.

Also attending the event was attorney Gloria Allred, who is representing some of Weinstein's accusers. She says Judd has started an "important conversation nationally" and "anyone who preys on women in the workplace is on notice."



Actress Ashley Judd attends The Women's Media Center 2017 Women's Media Awards at Capitale on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017, in New York.

Actress Rose McGowan says her silence over on sexual assault

DETROIT (AP)—In her first public comments since accusing film producer Harvey Weinstein of rape, actress Rose McGowan said Friday she has been "silenced for 20 years" but won't remain quiet about sexual assault and harassment.

McGowan, delivering opening remarks at The Women's Convention in Detroit, thanked the audience "for giving me wings during this very difficult time."

McGowan

"The triggering has been insane—the monster's face everywhere, my nightmare," she said. "I have been silenced for 20 years. I have been slut-shamed, I have been harassed, I have been maligned, and you know what? I am just like you. What happened to me behind the scenes happens to all of us in this society. It cannot stand and will not stand."

McGowan has been one of the leading voices against sexual harassment in Hollywood, and tweeted earlier this month that she was raped by a man with the initials "HW." The Hollywood Reporter said McGowan confirmed she was referring to Weinstein.

On Twitter, McGowan has amassed supporters and urged them to call out harassment using the #RoseArmy hashtag. McGowan has starred in several films, including "Scream," "Jawbreaker," and "Planet Terror," as well as the early 2000s television series "Charmed."

Weinstein was fired from The Weinstein Company on Oct. 8 after *The New York Times* published an exposé that detailed decades of sexual harassment allegations against him. The Oscar-winning producer apologized without addressing any specific conduct, but has denied later allegations by several women that he raped them.

The New York Times also reported that Weinstein paid a financial settlement of \$100,000 to McGowan in 1997 over an incident in a hotel room during the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

Weinstein representative Sallie Hofmeister has denied all allegations of non-consensual sex.

Police in London, Los Angeles and New York are investigating Weinstein, 65.

Letters from Harper Lee to friend sell for \$12,500

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—A batch of letters handwritten by "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee to a friend has sold for more than \$12,000.

A statement from the Los Angeles-based Nate D. Sanders Auctions says 38 letters from the deceased novelist to her late friend Felice Itzkoff went for \$12,500 in a sale that ended Thursday night. The minimum bid was \$10,000.

The letters span the period from December 2005 to May 2010 and include a note written on Jan. 20, 2009, the day Barack Obama was inaugurated as the nation's first black president.

In the note, Lee referred to former President Lyndon B. Johnson and actor Gregory Peck, who portrayed small-town attorney Atticus Finch in the screen adaptation of "Mockingbird," a story of racial injustice in the Jim Crow South.

"On this Inauguration Day I count my blessings ... I'm also thinking of another friend,

Greg Peck, who was a good friend of LBJ. Greg said to him, 'Do you suppose we will live to see a black President?' LBJ said, 'No, but I wish her well,'" Lee wrote.

The auction company did not disclose the name of the purchaser.

The letters track years of correspondence between Lee and Itzkoff, a New York resident whom the author referred to as "Clipper," short for "Yankee Clipper." Itzkoff died in 2011.

In a Christmas card from 2009, Lee wrote: "Most-loved Clipper: Don't know if you celebrate Christmas, but it makes not a jot of difference to me. I am at heart a heathen."

Other letters talked about Lee's Southern heritage and her father A.C. Lee, the model for Finch.

Lee died in her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, in February 2016 about seven months after publishing "Go Set a Watchman," a companion book to her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

Selena Gomez opens up on 'life or death' kidney donation



Actress-singer Selena Gomez blows a kiss to photographers at the 3rd annual InStyle Awards at the Getty Center on Monday, Oct. 23, 2017, in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Selena Gomez says her friend Francia Raisa saved her life by donating a kidney to the singer earlier this year.

Gomez and Raisa sat down for an interview with NBC News that is set to air next week. In a preview clip, Gomez says she didn't want to ask anyone to be a donor, but Raisa "volunteered and did it." Gomez announced the procedure last month, saying she needed a new kidney due to her struggle with lupus. Lupus is an autoimmune disease where the body mistakenly attacks its own tissues, sometimes including the kidneys.

She tells NBC her condition "was really kind of life or death."

The 29-year-old Raisa is an actress best known for her role on the ABC Family series "The Secret Life of the American Teenager."

 SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Janet Jackson visits small childhood home in Gary, Indiana

GARY, Ind. (AP)—Singer Janet Jackson and her brother Randy Jackson have visited their childhood home in Gary, Indiana, and talked with local high school students. The (Northwest Indiana) Times reports that the Jacksons made the visit Friday, a day after Janet Jackson's concert in the Chicago area. Janet Jackson told students at Roosevelt High School that she started crying when she saw the small house. She said, "me and my family are so blessed. I'm so thankful." The 51-year-old said she was 8-years-old the last time she was in Gary. The family moved out of the industrial city about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southwest of Chicago after the Jackson 5 recorded their first album in 1969, when Janet Jackson was a toddler. She also told students she misses performing with her siblings.

Trump suggests Michael Moore's Broadway debut was a flop

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump has set his sights on a new target: filmmaker and Trump critic Michael Moore. Trump tweets: "While not at all presidential I must point out that the Sloppy Michael Moore Show on Broadway was a TOTAL BOMB and was forced to close. Sad!" Trump criticized the liberal activist on Saturday, several days after Moore's one-man show, "The Terms of My Surrender," concluded its limited Broadway run on Oct. 22. Playbill.com says the anti-Trump show examined America's current political and cultural landscape. In August, Moore led the show's audience to Trump Tower in New York to protest the president's reac-

tion to deadly violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Simon Cowell back home from hospital after fall in London

LONDON (AP)—Entertainment mogul Simon Cowell was briefly hospitalized Friday after a fall at his London home. The Sun newspaper reported that Cowell was taken from his house on a stretcher and wearing a neck brace on Friday morning. It said the 58-year-old TV presenter is thought to have fainted and fallen down the stairs. Cowell was photographed giving a thumbs-up sign as he returned to his west London home on

Friday afternoon wearing tracksuit bottoms and a dark sweater. His representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Cowell, creator of "America's Got Talent," is due to appear as a judge on the new series of U.K. TV talent show "The X Factor" on Saturday. He told the Daily Mirror he had "a bit of concussion" but was feeling better, adding: "I will be back, but I don't know about tomorrow."

The Atlantic removes an editor over harassment claims

NEW YORK (AP)—*The Atlantic* magazine has removed

contributing editor Leon Wieseltier from its masthead after allegations emerged this week that Wieseltier harassed numerous women during his years with *The New Republic*. In a staff memo issued Friday, and shared with The Associated Press, *Atlantic* Editor in Chief Jeffrey Goldberg wrote that the magazine has "zero tolerance" for workplace harassment. Wieseltier, literary editor of *The New Republic* from 1983-2014, has been accused by former colleagues of unwanted advances, abusive language and other forms of inappropriate behavior. He has apologized and vowed not to "waste this reckoning." Two

other institutions have broken ties with Wieseltier, 65. The Emerson Collective, an organization run by Steve Jobs' widow, Laurene Powell Jobs, canceled a planned magazine that Wieseltier was supposed to edit. The Brookings Institution, where Wieseltier was a senior fellow, has suspended him without pay.

Official: Actor Charlie Heaton denied US entry over drugs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A law enforcement official says "Stranger Things" actor Charlie Heaton was denied entry into the U.S. last week after trace amounts of cocaine were

found in his luggage when he arrived in Los Angeles. The official said Friday a customs canine sniffed Heaton's luggage when he arrived at Los Angeles International Airport last Saturday and officers found traces of cocaine. The official said Heaton, a British citizen, was refused entry into the U.S. at the airport and returned to London. He wasn't arrested because the amount wasn't enough to warrant any charges. The official couldn't discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Heaton stars as Jonathan Byers in the Netflix supernatural drama.


PROTEST ART

A view of the Trevi Fountain after Graziano Cecchini, not in picture, poured red paint in the water, in Rome, Italy, Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017. A self-proclaimed artist, Cecchini repeated the same act that stunned the world 10 years ago, on Oct. 19, 2007. Cecchini insisted that the dye wouldn't harm the fountain and was intended as a protest against Rome's corruption and filth. According to witnesses, Cecchini managed to climb onto the side of the fountain and pour the dye in, turning the Trevi pool into a murky red lake. Police escorted him from the scene. Cecchini was also responsible for sending thousands of colored plastic balls down Rome's Spanish Steps in 2008.

AP

Second husband fails to earn his sister-in-law's approval

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Eileen" is married to her second husband, a man I'll call Harry. He's nice, but some of his choices landed him in jail for a while. I'm polite when we see him, but I don't trust him.

Eileen and Harry live beyond their means. They rent a large house and buy luxury cars rather than something more economical. These are my observations; I never mention them to my sister. Although she's happy to give advice on what's wrong with my life, she becomes defensive if anyone else says anything about how she lives.

My concern is, she refuses to visit or spend time with me and my family without her husband. Before our mom's death a few years ago, I offered to buy her an airline ticket to fly here for a few days to visit. Because she's very organized, I recently invited her to come—at my expense—and offered to pay her to help me declutter my house. She declined both invitations because I wouldn't buy a ticket for Harry. (I didn't have the money.)

I think my sister's marriage is very co-dependent. Abby, what should I do?

WANTS SOME SISTER TIME

DEAR WANTS SOME SISTER TIME: While Harry may have made some poor choices in the past—for which he has paid the penalty—he seems to make your sister hap-

py. Assuming that you have told her you love and miss her and would like to be able to spend "sister time" with her, I think it's time to accept that they are a package deal and stop trying to separate them.

Because you crave sister time, offer to go there and visit her. She seems to be happily living the life she has chosen, so stop putting negative labels on her relationship with her husband.

DEAR ABBY: I never thought I'd be writing you, but I have a situation that needs an objective opinion.

My husband works for a small company owned by a nice couple. They have a teenage daughter who keeps asking to baby-sit our three kids. Abby, we have a special needs child and a new baby. Although the girl seems to be kind and responsible, our children would be a challenge for an adult, let alone a teenager.

Also, we are on a very tight, one-income budget with money needed for therapies. I don't want to mention it because I don't want to insinuate they aren't paying my husband enough, but it is a serious deterrent.

How can I gracefully decline her offers without offending my husband's employer? Keeping him in good standing with his company is my primary concern because he works hard and

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

loves his job.

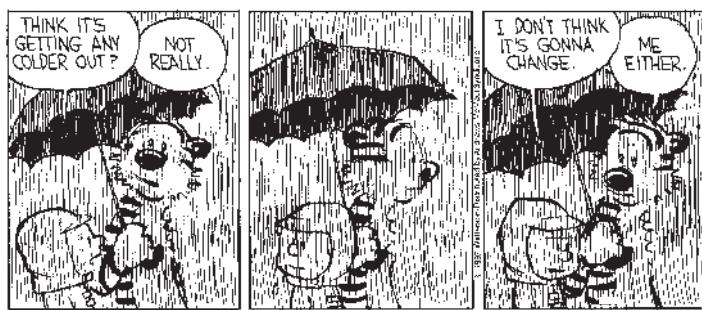
ANONYMOUS IN THE USA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Explain your refusal as an abridged version of what you wrote to me. Thank the girl for her kind offer and tell her that because your older child has special needs and the baby requires constant supervision, you prefer not to have anyone baby-sit until they are older. The explanation is reasonable, logical and the truth.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

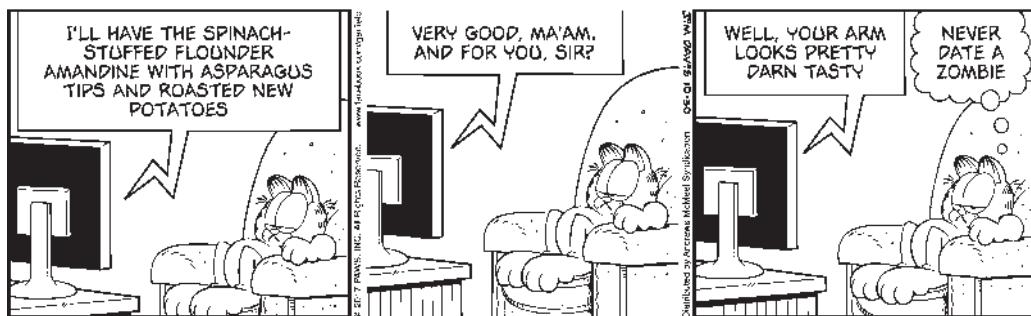
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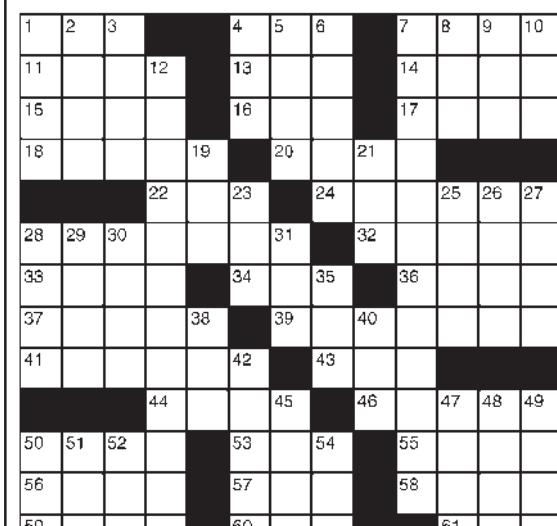
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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	advertiser	Red Sea	5	Speedy	26	me	2	advertiser	2	advertiser	
4	Tank filler	50	Give up	6	Heroic	down ..."	4	Tank filler	4	Tank filler	
7	Shock	53	Fawn's	7	Hallow-	27	Relaxed	7	Shock	7	Shock
11	Bard	mama	55	Took the	8	een	28	Filly's	11	Bard	
13	401(k)	train	56	Water, to	9	grinner	29	brother	13	401(k)	
14	alternative	Juan	57	Last	10	Tic-tac-	30	Region	14	alternative	
15	Pivot line	(Abbr.)	58	Eggy	11	toe	31	Ca-	15	Miles	
16	Miles	drinks	59	Horn	12	loser	32	boose	16	away	
17	Brilliant	sound	60	Ballot	13	Actress	33	Muppet	17	stroke	
18	Dutch	marks	61	Profit	14	Lucy	34	eagle	18	Dutch	
20	bloom				15	Recipe	35	ball	20	bloom	
22	Fir coat	abbr.			16	abbr.	36	"Rah!"	22	Fir coat	
24	Spy org.				17	Hallow-	37	40	24	Candle	
28	Candle				18	een	38	Care-	28	holder	
30	holder				19	greeting	39	free	30	Auto	
32	Auto				20	—	40	Updike's	32	starters	
33	starters				21	—	41	"Rabbit	33	Hilo hello	
34	Hilo hello				22	—	42	—"	34	Sandwich	
35	Sandwich				23	Lovers'	43	Only	35	treat	
36	treat				24	quarrel	44	47	36	Dazzles	
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I M A G E E R R S
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Last Friday's Answer 10-30



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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4	2	1			3			
7		3	8					2
3		2	4					
4	2	9			7			
1		2			9			
5			1	2	3			
8	5				7			
9	6				8			
5	1				6			

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	6	1	9	3	2	8	5	4
3	8	5	1	4	6	2	7	9
4	2	9	7	8	5	1	3	6
1	3	8	4	2	7	9	6	5
6	9	7	8	5	1	3	4	2
2	5	4	3	6	9	7	1	8
9	4	2	5	1	3	6	8	7
5	1	6	2	7	8	4	9	3
8	7	3	6	9	4	5	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PRALINES

P B E T I A F R A P R A G U S
I A O E R C B C R U S H E D H
E C S I F E C L A I R S N S H
T R A T L F S F P R T O I A F
F U D G E E O S I E M N Z F R
B R I T T L E T E L A E O K E
V A N I L L A W A D L N L B N
N W O R B G S I S N D I U A C
A S Y R U P M P U A M C N T H
P T A O C A I T N U J A C G E
I U N O D R X T H I C K E N E
Z N O A I S T U N E N I P M F
R L C T C R U N C H E R R Y F
A A A M A E R C S N A C E P O
M W B U T T E R U E U Q I L C

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10/30

Almonds, Bacon, Belgian, Boil, Brittle, Brown, Butter, Cajun, Cherry, Coat, Coffee, Cool, Cream, Crunch, Crushed, Cube, Danish, Dessert, Eclair, Filling, Fondant, French, Fudge, Hazelnut, Liqueur, Macadamia, Marzipan, Milk, Mixture, Nougat, Parfait, Paste, Peanut, Pecans, Pine Nuts, Spirit, Sugar, Sweets, Syrup, Tart, Thicken, Toffee, Vanilla, Walnuts
Last Friday's Answer: Strawberries
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ACTING, SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS)
HOUSING CORPORATION)
Plaintiff)
vs.) CIVIL ACTION NO.
EDMOND K. RABAULIMAN) 15-0138
and the ESTATE OF AUGUSTA)
S. RABAULIMAN)
Defendants.)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 6, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the rights, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 75, containing an area of 770 square meters, more or less, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 03, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4411, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 22, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of October, 2017:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Bellinger, Dodgers top Astros to tie World Series

HOUSTON (AP) — Cody Bellinger pulled into second base with his first World Series hit and said: "It's a miracle!"

With the Dodgers three innings from falling into a deep deficit, the rookie slugger sparked a late comeback that stopped the Houston Astros' surge.

Hitless in 13 at-bats, Bellinger doubled and scored the tying run in the seventh inning, then doubled home the go-ahead run off struggling closer Ken Giles in a five-run ninth that lifted Los Angeles to a 6-2 win Saturday night and tied the Series at two games apiece.

"Sometimes you see in the postseason you want to try to do too much, and that's what I was doing," Bellinger said. "Today I tried to make an effort of not doing too much, and when you do that you get two hits sometimes. It's a crazy game."

George Springer put the Astros ahead with a two-out homer in the sixth, the first hit off Los Angeles starter Alex Wood. The crowd at Minute Maid Park, where Houston had been 7-0 this postseason, was revved up in anticipation of the Astros having a chance to win the first title in their 56-season history on Sunday.

Instead, the Series will go back to Los Angeles no matter what. Clayton Kershaw starts Game 5 for the Dodgers on Sunday night and Dallas Keuchel for the Astros in a rematch of the opener, when Kershaw pitched Los Angeles to a 3-1 win.

Bellinger, a 22-year-old bopper who set a National League rookie record with 39 home runs this season, struck out four times in Game 3 and once more in the fifth inning—his eighth whiff of the Series.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts expressed faith Friday night in Bellinger and again Saturday afternoon.

"He's got that calmness about him," Roberts said. "And when things speed up, he has a way of sort of resetting and not letting it spiral."

During batting practice,



Houston Astros' George Springer beats Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger to first base during the sixth inning of Game 4 of baseball's World Series Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017, in Houston. AP

handle it physically."

Springer put the Astros ahead when he drove a curveball, Wood's 84th and final pitch, over the left-field scoreboard and into the Crawford Boxes. Wood dropped to a knee on the mound and watched the ball land in the seats and rebound onto the field.

Houston was nine outs from winning for the 18th time in 20 home games since returning to Minute Maid Park after Hurricane Harvey, and from becoming the first major league team to start a postseason 8-0 at home.

But the Dodgers tied the score in the seventh. Bellinger pointed skyward when reaching second standing up on his opposite-field hit. He clapped both hands above his head, said "It's a miracle!" and pointed for the ball to be saved.

Los Angeles had been 1 for 17 with runners in scoring position before Forsythe's hit.

Making only his second appearance since Sept. 26, Wood accomplished a feat that eluded Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Orel Hershiser and other Dodgers pitching greats. In the team's 109th World Series game, Wood became the first Dodgers pitcher to hold an opponent hitless through five innings.

Houston had put a runner on in 14 consecutive innings before the 26-year-old lefty retired the side in order in the first.

Morton was nearly as stingy, allowing three hits in 6 1/3 innings. This was the first Series game in which both starters allowed four baserunners or fewer.

"The innings were rolling pretty quickly there the first four, five, six innings," Wood said. "It kept us both of us locked in."

Bellinger tried to emulate teammates Andre Ethier and Logan Forsythe by hitting the ball to the opposite field.

"I was always told these really good hitters hit the ball the other way in BP and I had never done it, and I wanted to try it," he said. "I hit every ball in BP today to the left side of the infield. I've never done that before in my life. Usually I try to lift. I needed to make an adjustment."

Bellinger lined a fastball to the opposite field over Marwin Gonzalez into the quirky corner next to the left-field scoreboard, chasing starter Charlie Morton. He came home on Forsythe's two-out single off Will Harris.

Giles entered to start the

ninth and got into immediate trouble, allowing a leadoff single to Corey Seager and a walk to Justin Turner. Bellinger took a low slider, then lined a fastball

at the letters to left-center. He dropped his bat and raised a hand while running to first and clapped his hands half a dozen times in excitement after sliding into second.

"Every day you see him grow a little bit more," Wood said. "I think everybody kind of had the same message with him: 'We believe in you. You're our guy. You're spe-

cial. Remember that."

Joe Musgrove relieved and allowed Austin Barnes' sacrifice fly and Joc Pederson's three-run homer, his second

home run of the Series.

"You like that! You like that!" Pederson yelled to teammates, a la Washington Redskins quarterback

Kirk Cousins, as he came back to dugout.

Wood, Brandon Morrow, winner Tony Watson and Kenley Jansen combined on a two-hitter -- the first-ever in the Series in which both hits were home runs. Jansen allowed Alex Bregman's

two-out long ball in the ninth, the 15th home run of the Series, most ever through four games, before retiring Jose Altuve on a flyout.

Giles, the loser, was charged with three runs.

"They were all crappy pitches, not where I wanted them," he said. "I need to do better. I need to pick up this team. I need to carry my weight."

He has an 11.75 postseason ERA, allowing runs in six of seven appearances.

"When you're a back-end reliever," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said, "unless you're extraordinarily dominant, you're only talked about when you suffer, when you struggle. So for him, he can handle it mentally. He can

Gurriel banned 5 games in 2018 for racist gesture at Darvish

HOUSTON (AP) — Yuli Gurriel will have to sit out for making a racist gesture toward Yu Darvish—but not during the World Series.

Major League Baseball suspended the Houston Astros first baseman Saturday for the first five games next season. The punishment came a day after Gurriel's actions toward the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher during Game 3.

"I understand that people

may have different views," Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "But it was my best judgment that this timing was appropriate."

"I wanted the burden of this discipline to fall primarily on the wrongdoer," he said.

The Cuban-born Gurriel pulled on the corners of his eyes after homering off Darvish during Houston's 5-3 win Friday night. He also used a derogatory Spanish term in reference

to Darvish, who was born in Japan.

"I made an offensive gesture that was indefensible," Gurriel said in a statement released by the Astros. "I sincerely apologize to everyone that I offended with my actions. I deeply regret it."

"I would particularly like to apologize to Yu Darvish, a pitcher that I admire and respect. I would also like to apologize to the Dodgers organization, the Astros,

Major League Baseball and to all fans across the game," he said.

Gurriel said Friday that he wanted to meet with Darvish to express his regret. Manfred said there would be a private apology.

Gurriel will lose \$322,581 of his \$12 million salary next year, which the Astros will donate to charitable causes. He also will be required to undergo sensitivity training during the offseason.



NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Girardi

was fired as the Yankees manager Thursday after a decade that produced just one World Series title for a team that expects to win every year.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman announced the move five days after New York lost to Houston in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series.

"With a heavy heart, I come to you because the Yankees have decided not to bring me back," Girardi said in a state-

Girardi fired as Yanks manager, leaving with 'heavy heart'

ment released by his agent, Steven Mandell. "I'd like to thank the fans for their great support as a player, coach and manager and the lasting memories of their passion and excitement during the playoff games."

An intense and driven former All-Star catcher, Girardi was at the end of his four-year contract and said last weekend he had to speak with his family before deciding whether he wanted to return. New York

made the decision for him.

"Everything this organization does is done with careful and thorough consideration, and we've decided to pursue alternatives for the managerial position," Cashman said in a statement.

Girardi's 910-710 regular-season record with the Yankees is sixth in victories managing the team behind Joe McCarthy (1,460), Joe Torre (1,173), Casey Stengel (1,149), Miller

Huggins (1,067) and Ralph Houk (944).

Cashman said he and owner Hal Steinbrenner had spoken directly with Girardi this week.

"He has a tireless work ethic, and put his heart into every game he managed over the last decade," Cashman said in his statement. "He should take great pride in our accomplishments during his tenure."

New York said Cashman

and other team officials will not discuss the decision during the World Series.

Girardi wore uniform No. 25 as a player with the Yankees from 1996-99, when he helped win three titles, but switched to No. 27 when he earned the manager's job over Don Mattingly and succeeded Torre after the 2007 season—signifying the team's quest for its 27th championship. Girardi took uniform No. 28 after

leading the team to a World Series victory over Philadelphia in 2009.

New York changed managers 20 times from 1973, when George Steinbrenner bought the team, through October 1995, when Torre replaced Buck Showalter. But the Yankees have had just two managers in 22 years since.

New York became the third of the 10 postseason teams to remove managers, joining Boston and Washington. There is no clear favorite to replace him.

Irving's late flurry helps Celtics beat Heat



MIAMI (AP)—Kyrie Irving has done a lot of things in Miami: relaxation, offseason workouts, even the filming of an "Uncle Drew" commercial.

Something he hadn't done there? Win.

He's now crossed that off the list as well.

Irving took over down the stretch, scoring nine of his 24 points in the final 2:03 and the Boston Celtics extended their winning streak to four games after holding on late to beat the Heat 96-90 on Saturday night.

It was Irving's eighth time playing at Miami, and the first time he walked off the Heat home floor a winner.

"Just big possessions down the stretch (and) understanding you have to stay poised," Irving said. "It's unwavering in those situations like that. Winning time—so it's pretty simple."

Jayson Tatum scored 20 and Marcus Smart added 16 for the Celtics, who beat Miami for the eighth consecutive time. And afterward, Tatum marveled at Irving's closing flurry.

"It was weird because I've seen it on TV so many times," Tatum said. "And I just saw it in person. I liked it."

Goran Dragic scored 22 points for Miami, which got 16 apiece from Josh Richardson and James Johnson. Former Boston forward Kelly Olynyk had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Heat, who were 7 for 31 from 3-point range.

Pelicans 123, Cavaliers 101

In New Orleans, DeMarcus Cousins had 29 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, and the New Orleans Pelicans pulled away for a convincing victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Anthony Davis added 30 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks to help New Orleans win for the third time in four games. New Orleans' All-Star frontcourt tandem had help from the backcourt, too, with Jrue Holiday scoring 29 points and E'Twaun Moore 24 as the Pelicans made better than 53 percent off their shots.

Kevin Love had 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavs, who were without Derrick Rose and trailed for most of the game. LeBron James had 18 points and Dwyane Wade 15 for Cleveland, which has lost three of four.

Grizzlies 103, Rockets 89

In Memphis, Chandler Parsons finally gave Memphis fans what they've waited for, scoring 24 points on accurate shooting to lead the Grizzlies over Houston.

Parsons, who has struggled and battled injuries since signing with the Grizzlies last season, was part of a Memphis bench effort that dominated the Rockets' reserves. By the time Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni cleared his bench with just under 4 minutes left and Memphis leading by 19, the Grizzlies held a 62-15 advantage in bench points.

That wasn't the only shortcoming for the Rockets, who shot 38 percent for the game, were 14 of 38 from outside the arc (37 percent) and committed 19 turnovers, leading to 24 points.

Thunder 101, Bulls 69

In Chicago, Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points and Paul George had 20 to lead Oklahoma City over Chicago.

Russell Westbrook added 12 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists for his third triple-double of the season. He has now recorded a triple-double against every league opponent in his career. Steven Adams and Raymond Felton had 12 points apiece for the Thunder, who won their first road game in three attempts after losing three of their last four games overall.

76ers 112, Mavericks 110

In Dallas, Ben Simmons had 23 points, eight assists, and seven rebounds as Philadelphia outlasted Dallas for its second win of the season.

Joel Embiid added 23 points and nine rebounds as the 76ers won in Dallas for the first time since Jan. 29, 2005.

Dallas had a chance to tie the game and force overtime



with 0.2 seconds remaining with Yogi Ferrell at the free throw line, but the guard missed the first attempt and Dallas couldn't score on a rebound after he intentionally missed the second.

Jazz 96, Lakers 81

In Salt Lake City, rookie Don-

ovan Mitchell scored a career-high 22 points and Utah held to beat Los Angeles.

The victory broke a two-game losing streak for the Jazz.

The Jazz jumped out to a 21-7 lead thanks to a 16-3 run highlighted by a floater from Mitchell after he pump-faked Lonzo Ball.

Ricky Rubio scored a season-high 21 points, had seven rebounds and four assists for the Jazz while Derrick Favors had his first double-double of the season with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Brandon Ingram led the Lakers with 16 points and Jordan Clarkson put up 15 off the bench.

NFL's new mantra: Go younger, go cheaper

rookie salaries and limited the chances for young players to renegotiate deals they had outperformed.

"I thought the reason we supposedly changed the CBA was to keep veteran guys around, quote-unquote, but that hasn't been what's materialized," said Washington cornerback DeAngelo Hall, who entered the league in 2004. "It's been: go younger, go cheaper."

While teams are still willing to shell out big money to quarterbacks, elite pass rushers, shutdown cornerbacks, a few dominant offensive linemen and some big-play receivers, they are filling out the rest of the roster with players mostly on rookie contracts. The current CBA capped rookie salaries for the first four years—and an extra fifth for first-round picks—with the idea that more money would be available to veterans on second and third

contracts. But that wealth has only materialized for a minority of stars at key positions, with a large share of veterans getting left behind.

"Veterans are being passed over in favor of younger players who cost half as much and don't even have a fraction of the experience," said longtime agent David Canter. "Whenever that happens, regardless of profession, the quality of the product is going to decrease. The new CBA helped create this environment as owners duped the players and NFLPA into thinking that the savings on rookie contracts via an unnecessary rookie scale would be passed along to veteran players, with the union scoring the victory of less time in facilities in the offseason."

Instead the reduced offseason practice time, elimination of training camp two-a-days, and the reduction of in-season

Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving (11) looks for an open teammate past Miami Heat forward Bam Adebayo (13) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017, in Miami.

Ball, the No. 2 overall draft pick, finished with nine points, two rebounds and four assists.

Pistons 95, Clippers 87

In Los Angeles, Andre Drummond had 15 points and 17 rebounds to lead Detroit over Los Angeles, handing the NBA's last undefeated team its first loss in five games this season.

Reggie Jackson added 15 points and Langston Galloway had 13 off the bench for the Pistons.

Austin Rivers scored 20 points for the Clippers, going 6 of 8 from 3-point range. Blake Griffin had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and DeAndre Jordan added 14 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 114, Suns 107

In Portland, Damian Lillard scored 25 points, C.J. McCollum had 23 and Portland outlasted persistent Phoenix.

Jusuf Nurkic had 17 points and nine rebounds, and Pat Connaughton scored 13 points off the bench for Portland.

Phoenix (2-4) lost for the first time since Jay Triano took over as interim coach. Earl Watson was fired on Oct. 22, following an 0-3 start.

Devin Booker hit 11 of 19 shots and scored 33 points for Phoenix.

"in the NFL," Bowman said. "Young guys come in the league and they don't know. Coaches want to see so much and get so much out of those young guys that pressure takes over and they can't do it. You need to have some veteran guys out there."

There are just fewer of them around. The average age of players on opening day rosters has dropped from 26.6 years to 26 years in the past decade, with more than 55 percent of all snaps now taken by players age 26 or younger.

While aging quarterbacks like Tom Brady and Drew Brees get much of the focus, the rest of the league is getting younger around them. In nearly every major statistical category the percentage of production in the league coming from players age 25 and younger has risen significantly compared to a decade ago. Players in their 30s who used to serve as mentors for young players are becoming a dying breed.

Homeboyz rules Thursday Bud Cup

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Chow Time-Blue Haus Homeboyz completed its Cinderella run in the Budweiser Cup by beating the 9 Eleven Titans II, 9-6, in the finals of the Saipan Billiards Association Thursday Open 8-Ball Thursday division postseason tournament.

The Homeboyz finished seventh in the eight-team field after the regular season, but battled its way in the knockout phase of the Budweiser Cup to emerge as champion. It made short work of the Tasha's Extreme, 9-2, in the first phase of the knockout playoffs then followed it up with another masterful 9-2 decision against the 9 Eleven Jam



Shooters before dispatching Titans II in the race-to-9 finals held last week.

The Homeboyz and Titans II played to a 4-4 tally in the first set of Partners and Sin-

gles events and the former moved ahead thanks to Nolan Cultura, Gian Flores, and

Jeff Garcia as they disposed of Shane Quitugua, Ray Matsunaga, and Pat Cepeda in the next Singles matches.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some players of the Chow Time-Blue Haus Homeboyz pose for a photo during an earlier game in the Saipan Billiards Association Thursday Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

Quitugua and Bill Cepeda kept the title hopes of the Titans II as they defeated Flores and Cesar Sangalang in their respective matchups, wins that sandwiched Simeon Kapileo's loss to Flores for an 8-6 count.

George Lizardo sealed the victory for the Homeboyz after he defeated Matsunaga in the final Singles 8 Ball game. Greg Deleon Guerrero was the other member of the Titans II that also played in the finals.

The Destroyers, another team supported by Chow Time and Blue Haus, ruled the Tuesday division after a 9-3 crushing of sister team Assassins in last week's finals.

FIFA to give 2018 World Cup champion \$38M

KOLKATA, India (AP)—The 2018 World Cup champion will get \$38 million from a prize fund FIFA has increased by 12 percent to \$400 million.

FIFA said Friday that each of the 32 competing national federations in Russia will get at least \$8 million, the same as in 2014 when the overall prize fund was \$358 million.

Three years ago, World Cup champion Germany received \$35 million and runner-up Argentina got \$25 million. Next year, the runner-up will also get a \$3 million increase to \$28 million.

Following a meeting of the FIFA Council, the governing body said the third- and fourth-place teams will each get a \$2 million increase to \$24 million and \$22 million, respectively. The quarterfinalists will each get \$16 million, also a \$2 million increase, and teams eliminated in the last 16 get a \$3 million increase to \$12 million.

The prize fund comes from

World Cup revenues that FIFA has projected to exceed \$5 billion despite stalled sales of sponsorships amid Swiss and American corruption investigations.

"Today the doors are open, the revenues come in and the revenues will exceed the budget certainly," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said.

Teams will also get \$1.5 million from FIFA toward the costs of preparing for the tournament. That amount was the same in 2014.

FIFA also moved to unblock a \$100 million fund from 2014 World Cup tournament revenues for host Brazil which has been frozen in fallout from corruption investigations.

FIFA promised the money in 2014 for "women's and grassroots football, health-care and social programs for underprivileged communities" in Brazil.

The fund was agreed to with Brazilian soccer leaders Jose Maria Marin and Marco Polo del Nero, who have both been indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice in a sprawling bribery and racketeering case. Marin's trial begins in Brooklyn federal court next month, and Del Nero has remained in Brazil to evade arrest while still president of the national soccer body.

Infantino said Friday a new entity would run the fund, and projects should start to benefit the country by early next year.

Also, FIFA has ended a years-long attempt to bring soccer peace between the Israeli and Palestinian federations.

The talks, begun by Infantino predecessor Sepp Blatter, tried to resolve the issue of teams from Israeli settlements on disputed

land playing in Israeli competitions in apparent breach of FIFA statutes.

"We see there where our limits unfortunately are," Infantino said, noting disputes in the region date back "10,000 years."

"Football is not going to solve them either, I am afraid," Infantino said.

Council members decided that "interference by FIFA in the (soccer) status quo in these territories ... could have an aggravating effect on the current circumstances."

In other decisions Friday:

FIFA has made world champions of dozens of European and South American clubs. The council agreed to recognize winners of the Intercontinental Cup, played for from 1960-2004 between the European Cup and Copa Libertadores champions. However, in some years a runner-up represented its continent after the champion declined an invitation.

was right, as neither team scored after the first quarter and by the end of the second canto, Mt. Carmel was only up by a deuce, 4-2. The diminutive, but the most skilled player on the SDA side—Marielle Lopez—made the lone field goal for her squad in the first half. Fiona Bucalig and Sienna Muna, on the other hand, drilled one basket apiece for the Lady Knights.

After a tight first half, Mt. Carmel School managed to gain more cushion in the second, as other players stepped in. SDA also picked up its

scoring a bit, but simply lack enough players to match up with the much deeper Lady Knights' roster.

Kaia Travilla scored all her 5 markers in the second half, and Aleia Santos and Kayli Peter added a basket apiece, while Norleen Vidal contributed a free throw.

"We reminded our girls that it's important to play as a team, and keep everybody involved. We don't ever know if one of our experienced players may have an off game and we will need everybody's support and contributions," Attao-Toves added.

"We were very happy that we were able to get everybody involved and give them some time on the court. Each player shined in their own way. We had strong defense, great pressure, and better transition from offense to defense and back to offense," she said.

Mt. Carmel's victory in the girls middle school finals was just the start of the Knights' celebration last weekend, as the school later partied again after also ruling the boys division title match. Mt. Carmel dethroned Agape Christian School, 37-25.

4-PEAT

From Page 28

ship game.

Mt. Carmel, which paraded a 14-player roster this season, topped the division for the fourth straight year. The Lady Knights began their string of title wins in the girls middle school group with a 28-12 triumph over Grace Christian Academy in the 2014-2015 season and followed it up with a backbreaking 24-22 win against Saipan International School during the 2015-2016 competition.

For their second consecu-

tive duel with SDA, though heavily favored, the Lady Knights were too cautious against their foes, especially after splitting their first two meetings prior to the finals.

"We went into the championship game with an even record against SDA. We have played against the same girls the past couple of seasons and they have great chemistry, teamwork and lots of heart. So we knew this match was going to be tough and can be anybody's game," Mt. Carmel School head coach Catherine Attao-Toves said.

The Lady Knights mentor

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	3	2	.600	—
Boston	3	2	.600	—
Brooklyn	3	3	.500	½
New York	1	3	.250	1½
Philadelphia	1	4	.200	2

Southeast Division

Orlando	4	1	.800	—
Washington	3	2	.600	1
Miami	2	2	.500	1½
Charlotte	2	3	.400	2
Atlanta	1	5	.167	3½

Central Division

Cleveland	3	2	.600	—
Detroit	3	2	.600	—
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	—
Indiana	2	3	.400	1
Chicago	1	3	.250	1½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	5	1	.833	—
Memphis	4	1	.800	½
San Antonio	4	1	.800	½
New Orleans	2	3	.400	2½
Dallas	1	5	.167	4

Northwest Division

Portland	3	2	.600	—
Minnesota	3	3	.500	½
Utah	2	3	.400	1
Denver	2	3	.400	1
Oklahoma City	2	3	.400	1

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	4	0	1.000	—
Golden State	4	2	.667	1
L.A. Lakers	2	3	.400	2½
Phoenix	2	3	.400	2½
Sacramento	1	4	.200	3½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017-2018 CCPSA Basketball League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Marianas Baptist Academy player is set to pull up for a shot against two Saipan International School defenders during their playoff game in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last week at the packed Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Mt. Carmel School and Saipan International School players battle for the rebound during their semis game in the boys middle school division.



Mt. Carmel School's Richard Steele, center, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as he is hemmed in by two Saipan International School defenders.



Mt. Carmel School's Raphael Galang, right, fakes off the defense of Saipan International School's Jabez Sebastian, left, and Rintaro Miyawaki.



Saipan International School's Dylan Mister is fouled by a Marianas Baptist Academy defender.



Mt. Carmel School's Jeremiah Diaz, left, loses the ball after colliding with Saipan International School's Jabez Sebastian.



Agape Christian School's Bobby Bao, third left, loses the ball against the defense of two Grace Christian Academy players.



Saipan International School's Jabez Sebastian, right, is hounded by Marianas Baptists Academy defenders.



Bellinger,
Dodgers top
Astros to tie
World Series

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28 MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017

Saipan Tribune Sports

Kyrie Irving's
late flurry
helps Celtics
beat Heat

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mom is Liu's lucky charm

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

China's Changfeng Liu brought with him a lucky charm to top the inaugural Marianas International Cup 2017.

Liu was named the overall champion of the weekend competition held at the Kingfisher Golf Links and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort and was surprised with his victory as he and his mom, Lady Guo, came to Saipan just for a vacation and to celebrate her 72nd birthday yesterday.

"It's my mother's birthday (today). I planned this trip as a birthday gift. I guess, I just got lucky or my mom turned out to be my lucky charm," said Liu.



still with a surprised smile on his face while his mother was grinning from ear to ear after receiving his prizes.

The Shanghai native had a

JON PEREZ
Changfeng Liu poses to photographers while pointing to his name after winning the overall crown in the inaugural Marianas International Cup 2017 held at Kingfisher Golf Links on Saturday and the east course of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort yesterday.

4-peat for Lady Knights

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

COESA Sports
Mt. Carmel School won its finals rematch against Seventh Day Adventist, 15-9, to rule the girls middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last Friday at the

Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Lady Knights' much better fundamentals and loaded roster powered them past SDA, which gallantly fought in the winner-take-all title match despite a depleted manpower. SDA fielded only six players in last weekend's finale, failing to avenge their 10-17 loss to the same team in last season's champion-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Mt. Carmel School player is tightly guarded by a Seventh Day Adventist defender during the second quarter of their title match in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



gross score of 89 at the Kingfisher Golf Links last Saturday and 92 on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in yesterday's final round to rule the double peoria tournament. Liu, the Commodities Division regional manager and deputy regional manager of research and investing firm Trammo (Shanghai) Trading Co. Ltd., finished with net scores of 77 and 68 for a 145 total, beating more than 100 other golfers from China, Japan, Korea, and host the CNMI.

Although there were some

winds and a little bit of rain on both days of the tournament at the different venues, the 41-year-old old Liu said he found Laolao east more challenging especially with the scenic ocean views. "It has beautiful sceneries. The ocean is very relaxing so I was dis-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Changfeng Liu, right, is joined by his mother, Lady Guo, for a photo after receiving his trophy during the awards ceremony for the Marianas International Cup 2017.



Paire shows way in Dove women's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club proved who's the boss in its 7-1 domination of the NMI U16 Developmental Team in the second game in Division A of the 2017 Dove Women's Fall League last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Guine Borja led Paire's easy win over the NMI U16 Developmental Team after firing four goals. She made her first back-to-back shots in the 13th and 16th minute and did the same thing in the 23rd and 28th. Jeraldine Castillo knocked in the two other

goals for Paire, which got an own goal from the NMI U16 Developmental Team's error.

With the victory, Paire now has a 5-1-0 win-draw-loss record for a tie for the lead with Kanoa FC-2.

Kanoa FC-1 also topped the NMI U16 Developmental Team last week, 6-4, but missed taking the solo top spot after settling for a scoreless draw against Paire last Tuesday.

Krizel Tuazon and Lalaine Pagarao towed Kanoa FC-2 to its fifth win after logging two goals apiece. Brittany Wally and Gillian Villagomez

contributed one goal each for Kanoa FC-2, while Leisha Sally, Therize Millare, Francesca Bucalig, and Katrina Costales were the scorers for the NMI U16 Developmental Team.



The NMI U16 Developmental Team is at the bottom of the team standings with its 1-0-5 slate, behind Kanoa FC-2 (2-0-4) and tied with Shirley's (1-0-5).

Shirley's broke into the win column last week after downing Kanoa FC-1, 4-2. Mia Carreon got a pair of goals to lift Shirley's past Kanoa FC-1, while De Jana Muna and Di-

ana Maniacop chipped in one each. Shairmaine Francisco and Princess Alcantara made the two goals for Kanoa FC-1.

Meanwhile, Paire is alone at the top spot in Division B with its 5-1-1 mark. Paire kept its distance against Shirley's (4-2-1) after shutting down Kanoa last week, 2-0. Patricia Coleman and Princess Pasion scored the two goals for Paire.

In the other Division B game last week, MY Pros drew Shirley's, 1-1. Natalie Hill made the equalizer for MY Pros late in the first half, while Keisha Deleon Guerrero tallied the lone goal for Shirley's.